

# Why does Reading and Communication form the bedrock of the curriculum at Birch Wood?

## Reading and Communication....

**Exposes pupils to new ideas, concepts, information and opinions.**

Some pupils at Birch Wood struggle to access wider society independently and so do not always have the chance to **discover all that is around them**. By ensuring **exposure to high quality texts** we can open more of the world to our pupils in the hope that it **excites, intrigues and motivates** our young people to fulfil their potential.

**Helps pupils to decode the world around them.**

Both reading and communication help us to decode the world around us. From the information we find in recipes to the interactions in a local shop. Without these **essential tools**, life becomes increasingly difficult. As a school, we are committed to **preparing all of our young people for adulthood** and ensuring they are as independent as possible.

**Removes barriers to learning and enables pupils independent access to curriculum content.**

For a lot of the pupils at Birch Wood, **the ability to read can be a barrier to learning**. Teachers at Birch Wood are experts at enabling success but it's important we try to remove these barriers as soon as possible. **Targeted interventions** for those on the Independence and Aspire Pathway supports reading whilst communication tools such as pecs, Makaton and IT equipment enable pupils on the engagement pathway to **access curriculum content**.

**Can deepen knowledge and enrich understanding**

Through **explicit teaching of subject specific vocabulary** pupils on the independence and aspire pathway can deepen their subject knowledge as well as expand their **academic vocabulary**.



## **Can strengthen relationships and help pupils to understand positive and healthy interactions**

**Social stories** are one example of how reading can help develop and strengthen relationships and promote positive interactions. Many of the pupils at Birch Wood have Communication and Interaction needs and so much of what we do centres on **developing positive relationships and supporting interactions**.

## **Can bring joy and happiness**

Birch Wood aims to create a love of learning and it is within this ethos that we aim to nurture **a love of reading for all pupils**. This could be **engaging with a sensory story** for pupils on the engagement pathway or enabling our young people on the Aspire pathway to **choose books** that they enjoy.

## **Can help keep pupils safe**

Reading and Communication is an important aspect of keeping our young people safe – inside and outside of school. We aim to provide the tools for all of our pupils to **communicated their needs and express any concerns or worries**.

### **Everyone at Birch Wood is a Leader of Reading and Communication...**

- We provide young people with the opportunity to read, and learn the read, at every stage of education.
- We role model positive and healthy interactions
- We create a language-rich environment that is sensitive to the needs of the individual
- We plan for the needs of the individual and consider reading and communication in every lesson
- We seek to utilise every opportunity to develop reading and communication

