



Kirton Lindsey Primary School



Phonics Screening Check Parents / Carers Information

What is the phonics screening check?

The Year 1 phonics screening check is a short, light-touch assessment to confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It identifies the children who need extra help so they are given support by their school to improve their reading skills. They will then be able to retake the check if needed in Year 2 so that schools can track pupils until they are able to decode.

Who is the phonics screening check for?

Year 1 pupils take the phonics screening check in the Summer Term (normally around the middle of June). If a child is unsuccessful at reaching the threshold mark they are retested in Year 2.

Is the phonics screening check compulsory?

Yes. It will be a statutory requirement for all schools to carry out the screening check.

How is the phonics screening check structured?

It will be a short, simple screening check to make sure that all pupils have grasped fundamental phonics skills and to see that nobody slips through the net. It comprises a list of 40 words and non-words, which a child will read one-to-one with a teacher. The words cover phonics skills the children were taught in Reception and Year 1.

Isn't it stressful to test such young children?

The assessment is age-appropriate, with children sitting with a teacher who they know and reading one-to-one. It should be an enjoyable activity for children which takes no more than a few minutes.

Why have you included non-words in the phonics screening check?

Non-words are an established assessment method in many schools, and are included in many phonics programs. They are included because they will be new to all pupils, so there won't be a bias to those with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words. Pupils who can read non-words should have the skills to decode almost any unfamiliar word.

How will the results from the phonics screening check be used?

Schools' results will not be published, although schools will have to tell parents their child's results. Data will be available for use by schools, local authorities and Ofsted as part of their inspections process. Schools will also use the results to help support the children with their future phonics work.