

National Curriculum Subject Area	Reading Comprehension and Inference
Whole School Reading overview	
Reading Explorers Programme a Guided Skill Based Journey	

Skills Progression Across the School (Y2 – Y6)

Skill	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Literal Thinking	Find direct answers in short texts.	Identify and summarise ideas.	Link ideas across paragraphs.	Interpret meaning in longer texts.	Analyse key facts and structure.
Deductive Reasoning	Understand actions/reactions.	Explain cause-effect events.	Analyse decisions and reasons.	Evaluate relationships in text.	Evaluate viewpoints critically.
Inferential Skills	Predict and explain simple ideas.	Read between the lines.	Identify implied meaning.	Interpret character development.	Analyse subtle author hints.
Evaluative Assessment	Say what they like/dislike.	Justify opinions about texts.	Compare different texts.	Explain how an author influences.	Critically assess author's craft.

Year Group	Reading Objectives (National Curriculum)	Reading Explorers Focus	Thinking & Reasoning Skills Developed	Key Text Types & Themes
Year 2	- Develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary and understanding. - Understand books by answering and asking questions. - Predict what might happen from what has been read. - Participate in discussions about books.	- Text retrieval and question matching. - Using sentence-level clues to answer literal questions. - Text sequencing.	Literal Thinking: Retrieve key facts and sequence. Deductive Reasoning: Identify cause-effect in simple texts. Inferential Skills: Predict outcomes using textual evidence. Evaluative: Express likes/dislikes about a character. Study Skills: Use simple glossaries and picture cues.	Traditional tales, poems, fables, stories from other cultures, and non-fiction (e.g., animals, travel).
Year 3	- Develop positive attitudes to reading. - Understand what is	- Paragraph-level comprehension. - Vocabulary in	Literal Thinking: Skim and scan for information. Deductive	Short stories, myths, legends, persuasive leaflets, instructions,

	read by drawing inferences and predicting. - Retrieve and record information. - Explain meaning of words in context.	context. - Begin to justify opinions.	Reasoning: Interpret character motives. Inferential Skills: Use implied detail for meaning. Evaluative: Compare actions of characters. Study Skills: Use indexes and contents pages.	diaries, and non-chronological reports.
Year 4	- Understand books by identifying themes and conventions. - Make inferences with evidence. - Distinguish between fact and opinion. - Discuss texts using evidence.	- Comprehension at paragraph to whole text level. - Compare viewpoint and purpose. - Vocabulary impact.	Literal Thinking: Understand complex sentence structure. Deductive Reasoning: Examine character motivations. Inferential Skills: Detect mood and atmosphere. Evaluative: Critique author's intent. Study Skills: Note-taking and skimming.	Chapter books, historical fiction, newspapers, persuasive texts, explanation texts.
Year 5	- Summarise main ideas across paragraphs. - Evaluate language choices. - Predict using evidence. - Retrieve information from texts.	- Multi-layered comprehension. - Figurative language and character change. - Justify interpretation.	Literal Thinking: Locate complex detail. Deductive Reasoning: Interpret theme and subtext. Inferential Skills: Explore bias and implied viewpoint. Evaluative: Judge author effectiveness. Study Skills: Organise notes for independent research.	Adventure, classic literature extracts, news articles, poetry for performance, balanced arguments.
Year 6	- Discuss and evaluate author's use of language. - Distinguish between fact, opinion, and bias. - Compare texts and themes. - Provide reasoned justifications.	- Critical response to whole texts. - Recognise perspective and tone. - Extended inferential discussion.	Literal Thinking: Analyse technical vocabulary. Deductive Reasoning: Use whole text to support judgment. Inferential Skills: Understand complex literary devices. Evaluative: Compare author styles across texts. Study Skills: Independent retrieval and research.	Novels, autobiographies, formal letters, SATs-style non-fiction texts, hybrid texts, reviews.

