

More Information

School-based SENCO:

For more information about this intervention or to speak to someone about your child's needs, please contact the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (**SENCO**).

School Website:

The school also has a **SEN Information Report** on its website. This report will have information for parents and carers about how the school supports children and young people with SEND.

Birmingham's Local Offer for children with SEND

The **Local Offer** will help you to find more information about provision that is available for children and young people with SEND in Birmingham and how to access different types of services and support. Please visit the Local Offer website:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/localoffer

Special educational needs or disabilities; Birmingham's Local Offer

Help and advice for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities	Support for babies and pre-school children with Special Educational Needs
What to do if you're unhappy with a SEND statement, assessment or plan	Education, Health and Care plans for children and young people
Assessment of Needs	What is the Local Offer?

Information for Parents and Carers Interventions: Words First



Why have I been given this leaflet?

Sometimes pupils may need extra help with their learning. This information has been produced for parents and carers of pupils who have additional learning needs. The leaflet has information about the extra help or intervention which has been chosen to help your child. This leaflet is about the '**Words First**' intervention.

The Graduated Approach

Teachers continually assess, plan, apply and review the way they teach all pupils in their class. When a pupil has an additional learning need identified, the approach to teaching gradually becomes more personalised. Children needing extra help may then receive a 'targeted' intervention over time or it may be decided that a more 'specialist' approach is needed.

Words First

What is an intervention?

- These are additional teaching sessions which run alongside usual classroom teaching.
- The SENCO or specialist teacher will have assessed your child's individual needs and may decide that they need to teach in a different way. This is sometimes called 'targeted' or 'specialist' provision depending on the teaching method used.
- The school will be very clear about why they are doing this, how long it will run for and will agree the expected outcomes.

What is Words First?

- Words First is a reading scheme intervention which focuses on the learning of 'sight' words using a whole word approach through reading a series of story books.
- There is a strictly controlled vocabulary, in each series of books, which is incorporated into meaningful sentences.
- The first series contains 48 words altogether which are split into groups of 12. The number of words increases in each series.
- The stories support the development of reading comprehension.
- It is a 1:1 or small group intervention where pupils work with a teacher to read words first, prior to reading the story books.

How is it different from my child's usual teaching?

- It supports pupils who have low self-confidence with reading by helping them to become familiar with the words in the book prior to reading the story.
- The words are learnt through a variety of fun activities.
- 75% of the words are linked to pictures, which supports retention and understanding.
- Once the pupils have become familiar with a set of words they are ready to read the story with confidence.
- Rather than the usual reading in class, Words First follows a more structured approach.

How can I help?

- Your child will benefit from reading with you at home.
- Create a relaxed environment where you can both enjoy reading together.
- Ask lots of questions about the story: who, what, when, where, why and how.
- Give lots of praise.
- If you want to try Words First at home, ask the school SENCO for more information.
- School will let you know when the intervention will start, how long it's planned to run and will keep you updated on progress during this time.