

The PhonicSpace Curriculum

A specific, systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) progression for KS1 — aligned to the UK Department for Education's framework.
 SENCO-designed · 40+ years' classroom experience · Reception to Year 2

30

LEVELS

5

STAGES

100+

GPCS

85+

GRAPHEMES

75

TRICKY WORDS

PhonicSpace teaches reading through a carefully sequenced, cumulative progression. Every grapheme-phoneme correspondence (GPC) is introduced in a deliberate order, building only on sounds already mastered. Children never encounter a word containing a sound they have not yet been taught — a strict **decodability guarantee** that underpins the entire curriculum.

The Five Stages

Stage	Levels	Focus	DfE / National Curriculum alignment
1. First Sounds	1-5	Single-letter sounds & first blending	Reception — DfE Phase 2
2. Digraphs & Vowel Teams	6-18	Consonant digraphs, vowel digraphs & trigraphs	Reception / Year 1 — DfE Phase 3
3. Advanced Vowel Patterns	19-23	Split digraphs (split vowel spellings); alternative spellings	Year 1 — DfE Phase 5
4. Expert Reader	24-28	Less common & complex grapheme patterns	Year 1 / 2 — DfE Phase 5
5. Word Building	29-30	Suffixes, inflections & word families	Year 2 — National Curriculum

Grapheme Coverage

Stage 1 — Single letters & double-letter spellings

s a t p i n m d g o c k e u r h b f l j v w x y z ck ff ll ss zz

Stage 2 — Digraphs, trigraphs & vowel teams

ch sh th qu ng nk ai ay ee ea igh oa oo oi oy aw au ow ou ar or ur ear air ure wh ph

Stage 3 — Split digraphs & alternative spellings

a-e e-e i-e o-e u-e ie ue ui eigh ew

Stages 4-5 extend into less common graphemes (e.g. *tion, ough, augh, ey, ei*) and morphology (suffixes *-ing, -ed, -er, -est, -ful, -ness, -less, -ly, -ment*). Full grapheme-level detail available to schools and researchers on request.

Pedagogical Model

Systematic & cumulative

- Fixed teaching sequence; each level builds on prior mastery
- Decodability guarantee: no untaught sounds in any word
- Sounds, words and sentences taught in separated practice modes
- Confusion pairs (e.g. b/d, p/q) explicitly tracked & supported

Two-pass mastery assessment

- Practice and assessment are fully separated
- Assessment is parent-administered & password-protected
- Randomised items prevent rote memorisation
- Half-star on first pass; full star on confirmed second pass
- Next level unlocks only on full mastery

An honest note on alignment. PhonicSpace is *aligned* to the Department for Education's criteria for effective systematic synthetic phonics and mapped to the DfE phonics phases and the National Curriculum. It is an independent programme and is not validated, endorsed or accredited by the Department for Education.

Inclusion & SEND

The curriculum is designed from the ground up by a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) with over 40 years' experience in UK primary schools. It supports a multi-sensory approach — visual, auditory and hands-on — and a calm, low-distraction interface built to the UK Age Appropriate Design Code. Pacing is fully child-led: there are no timers and no time pressure, making the progression suitable for children with a range of additional needs including ADHD, autism and speech and language delay.

PhonicSpace — SENCO-designed phonics learning, aligned to the UK curriculum. A FutureMinds Coding LTD product.
 Launching September 2026 · phonicsspace.co.uk · hello@futuresailors.app
 This document is a summary overview. It does not reproduce the full proprietary teaching sequence or word banks.