Rationale

At New Avenue School, our reading curriculum is designed to inspire a love for reading through a 'teaching-through-text' approach.

We focus on both fiction and non-fiction texts, gradually increasing in complexity to help pupils build essential skills in comprehension, vocabulary, and critical analysis. Our reading model is flexible and responsive, integrating phonics interventions where needed and drawing on contextual learning to make reading relevant and meaningful.

Curriculum Phases

Our curriculum is structured into four key phases, each building on the previous one:

- Phase 1: Foundational skills using engaging texts with relatable characters to build fluency and comprehension.
- Phase 2: A broader range of genres, including adventure, historical fiction, biographies, and informational texts.
- Phase 3: Exposure to literature with more complex themes, including more contextual analysis, enhancing critical thinking.
- Phase 4: Preparation for GCSE English Language, focusing on advanced vocabulary, themes, and analysis.

Phonics

For pupils requiring additional support, targeted phonics interventions, through the Read Write Inc. program, are available to ensure a solid foundation in reading skills.

Reading - Curriculum Overiew

Phase 1 - Summer Term

The term starts with *From Mystery to Discovery*, sparking curiosity with adventurous tales like *Mr. Penguin & The Lost Treasure* and *I am the Seed that Grew the Tree*. The year concludes with *Saving Our Planet*, where pupils learn about environmental awareness and conservation through *Poems from a Green and Blue Planet* and *Earth-Shattering Events*.

Phase 2 - Autumn Term

The term opens with Lessons from History, where pupils explore historical narratives and cultural heritage through Children of the Benin Kingdom and Sir Gawain and The Green Knight. Next, Exploration and Adventure invites pupils into tales of discovery and survival, fostering curiosity with The Explorer.

Phase 1 - Spring Term

Overcoming Adversity introduces stories of resilience and courage, with texts like The White Fox and How Does a Lighthouse Work?. The focus then shifts to Hope and Healing, where pupils explore themes of friendship, kindness, and recovery through The Last Firefox and The Poet's Dog, promoting empathy and optimism.

Phase 2 - Spring Term

In Crime and Punishment, pupils examine justice, ethics, and social structures through The Good Thieves and Politics for Beginners. The term then moves to A Sense of Place, highlighting how diverse settings shape stories, using texts like Incredible Journeys and The Story of Titanic.

Phase 3 - Summer Term

The term starts with *Friendship Through Hardship*, exploring deep themes of friendship amidst adversity with *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. The year concludes with *Dystopian Worlds Pt. 2*, where pupils reflect on societal challenges and resilience through *Maggot Moon*.

Phase 4 - Autumn Term

The year opens with *Exploring Fantasy*, where pupils dive into imaginative worlds through *The Book of Boy* and *Artemis Fowl*, encouraging creativity and exploration. This is followed by 19th Century Classics, introducing foundational literary works like *Frankenstein*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and *A Christmas Carol* to build an understanding of classic literature.

Phase 3 - Spring Term

Gothic introduces pupils to dark and suspenseful storytelling with The Graveyard Book and Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, fostering a love for mystery and atmospheric settings. Embracing Differences follows, focusing on empathy and unique perspectives in The London Eye Mystery.

Phase 4 - Spring Term

Modern Non-Fiction sharpens critical thinking as pupils engage with contemporary non-fiction texts on current issues. The term continues with *Contemporary Mysteries*, enhancing deductive skills and inference through engaging, modern

mysteries.

Phase 1 - Autumn Term

The term begins with Unearthing Civilisations, where pupils explore ancient cultures and historical narratives through texts like The Humans. This is followed by Imagination and Freedom, celebrating creativity and individuality with books such as The Undefeated, Annie Lumsden, and The Girl from the Sea, fostering self-expression and imaginative thinking.

Phase 2 - Summer Term

Fate and Fortune introduces themes of innovation and resilience, with stories like The Invention of Hugo Cabret and Cogheart. The year concludes with Conservation and Preservation, encouraging environmental responsibility through Beetle Boy and Darwin's Voyage of Discovery.

Phase 3 - Autumn Term

The term begins with *The Conquerors of Adversity*, where pupils engage with stories of resilience and overcoming challenges through *Wonder* and *The Bronze Bow*. This is followed by *Affirmation and Equality*, exploring themes of diversity and inclusion with *The Wonderling* and *Black and British*.

Phase 4 - Summer Term

In Off to Hollywood, pupils explore storytelling through film adaptations, understanding narrative techniques and screenwriting. The year ends with Non-Fiction Through Time, examining the evolution of non-fiction writing and its relevance to today.