Our Reading Spine is a core of books that create a living library inside a child's mind: a store of classics and essential reads that help children engage at a deeper level and enter the world of the story, fostering a love of reading from Nursery through to Year 6.

As Pie Corbett says...

Schools that have a reading spine, build a common bank of stories that bind the community together. These are shared and deeply imagined common experiences.

By the end of each phase, all children will have encountered these books in some way or other: The books will have been read to them by their class teacher, used to teach reading or writing or has been recommended to them by their teacher. All these books are available either in the school library or in class book shelves.



Early years: Nursery and reception Mousehole Mice and Dinghy Class



## Alternatives:

**Classic texts** 

Puss in Boots, The Princess and the Pea, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Three Little Pigs, The Gingerbread Man **Non-linear time sequence** 

Where the wild things are, The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch,

## **Complexity of the Narrator**

We're going on a bear hunt, Can't you sleep little bear? Winnie the Witch

## Figurative/Symbolic Texts

Jasper's Beanstalk, Hug, Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy

#### **Protected characteristics**

Happy in our skin-Fran Manushkin, If all the world was-Joseph Ceolho, You are welcome-Alexandra Penfold, Shine-Sarah Suquo



## Key stage 1 (by the end of year 2):

## Alternatives:

## **Classic texts**

The Ugly Duckling, Aesop's Fables, The Three Billy Goat's Gruff, The Night Before Christmas, The Owl and the Pussy Cat, The Magic Faraway Tree, The Tale of Peter Rabbit, The Selfish Giant, Winnie the Pooh

## Non-linear time sequence

The Worst Witch, Mog, The Magic Finger

## **Complexity of the Narrator**

Meerkat Mail, The Twits, Avocado Baby, Stick Man

## **Figurative/Symbolic Texts**

Wolves, Michael Rosen's Sad Book, Green Eggs and Ham, Lost and Found

## **Protected characteristics**

Billy the beast, And Tango makes three, Odd dog out, Giraffe's can't dance, The Great Book of Families





## Lower Key Stage 2 (by the end of year 4)

## Alternatives:

## **Classic texts**

The Snow Queen, A Bear called Paddington, The Secret Seven, The Railway Children, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, The Borrowers, The Wind in the Willows

## Non-linear time sequence

Worzel Gummidge, The Butterfly Lion,

## **Complexity of the Narrator**

The Midnight Fox, George's Marvellous Medicine, The Witches, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

## Figurative/Symbolic Texts

Revolting Rhymes, The Tunnel, The Tin Forest, Please Mrs Butler

## **Protected characteristics**

Bill's New Frock, Tell Me Know Lies, Me and Mr P, A Long Walk to Water



## Upper Key Stage 2 (by the end of year 6) Alternatives:

## **Classic texts**

The Call of the Wild, The Secret Garden, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, White Fang, The Raven, Journey to the Centre of the Earth, Robinson Crusoe

## Non-linear time sequence

Outlaw, A Long Walk to the Water, Cosmic, Goodnight Mr Tom, Stormbreaker, Room 13,

## **Complexity of the Narrator**

A Tale Dark and Grim, Matilda, Who let the Gods Out, Tin, A Series of Unfortunate Events, Oranges in No Man's Land,

## **Figurative/Symbolic Texts**

The Tiger, Fog, Silver, The Listeners, Jaberwocky, A ballad of London

## **Protected characteristics**

Cloud busting, The boy at the back of the class, Wonder, Happy here - story collection, Letters from the lighthouse WW2