

Jolly Phonics and Letters and Sounds

Frequently Asked Questions

Do both programmes cover the same material?

Both programmes feature direct, daily, systematic teaching of phonics for reading and writing. They are both active and multi-sensory and cover the core features of all good synthetic phonics programmes: letter-sound correspondences, blending for reading, segmenting for writing, letter formation and tricky words. Jolly Phonics, however, extends that teaching with further spelling, grammar and punctuation lessons.

Are both programmes for the same age groups?

Letters and Sounds and Jolly Phonics both cover Reception to Year 2, but Jolly Phonics extends this through the school with comprehensive lesson plans for years 3, 4, 5 and 6 as well.

Letters and Sounds	Reception	Year 1	Year 2		
Jolly Phonics	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Years 4 -6

What are the key differences between the programmes?

Jolly Phonics	Letters and Sounds
Divided into daily lesson plans for Reception year, and weekly lesson plans for years 1-6.	Divided into phases. No lesson plans included.
Pace for Jolly Phonics is much faster, and covers 42 letter sounds, 72 tricky words, blending, segmenting and main alternatives in Reception. Revision, extension and consolidation provided throughout years 1-6.	Slower pace, teaching main 40+ letter sounds, common exception words, simple blending and segmenting in first year. Main alternatives, suffixes and practice taught through Years 1 and 2.
Jolly Phonics extends into systematic spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons for years 1-6.	Basic spelling patterns are taught during years 1 and 2. No systematic grammar or punctuation lessons.
Some variation on graphemes: e.g. <ie> for /ie/, <er> and <ur> taught as same sound, long /ue/ taught in week 8	Some variation on graphemes: e.g. <igh> for /ie/, <ur> and <er> taught as two separate sounds, long /ue/ not taught
Graphemes taught in different order or at different stage within the programme	Graphemes taught in different order or at different stage within the programme

Can I use Jolly Phonics Materials to teach Letters and Sounds?

Jolly Phonics has been designed to be a flexible programme, so you can use the materials to deliver Letters and Sounds. This means that you will have to adapt certain aspects of it as they are not perfectly matched.