

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

Units of Sound

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What?

Units of Sound supports anyone who wants to improve on their reading, spelling and writing skills in English.

Units of Sound is a computer-based programme designed to help struggling readers with their reading and spelling skills. It is a structured, multisensory programme that covers reading and spelling from simple phonics skills through to adult reading levels. It involves a high level of independent work by the student, with small groups of students supervised by a teacher or teaching assistant. Each 'unit of sound' (or phonic code) is introduced separately, then used in words, and then sentences.

The programme uses revisiting, or 'spiral learning' to introduce and then further develop literacy skills. The scheme is designed for students from age 7 to adults, and is used in all types of mainstream and independent schools and colleges.



Why?

Pupils struggle with reading and spelling for a variety of reasons. They may have missed learning in primary school, they may have not fully acquired the skills they need, they may have conditions such as dyslexia, which is a learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling. Whatever the root cause, many students need to revisit learning more often to reach a level of automaticity in their learning. Problems with reading and spelling will affect students across many different subjects and many will have emotional responses to their difficulties. These can include embarrassment, low self-esteem, frustration and anger, which will cause additional barriers to learning. Units of Sound aims to support learners in a personalised way to acquire these essential skills and to gain confidence.