

Document A: Example questions for listening to pupils in the foundation phase

Reading

Younger pupils in the foundation phase

- What is your book about?
- What is happening in the pictures?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How do you think the story will end?
- What do you do if you do not know a word?
- Do you know this letter name?
- Do you know which sound(s) this letter makes?
- Do you enjoy reading?
- Who helps you with your reading?
- Does anyone read to you?

Older pupils in the foundation phase

- Did you choose this book?
- Did you know anything about it before you started reading it?
- Do you enjoy reading?
- Does the school have the sorts of books that you like to read?
- Do you read information books?
- How often do you read?
- Do you read at home?
- Do adults read to you in school? Do you enjoy that?
- What advice does your teacher give to you about your reading?

Fiction text

- What has happened so far in your book?
- What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- Tell me about your favourite character. Why do you like this character?
- What is your favourite part of the book and why?
- How do you think the author wants us to feel at this moment in the book?
- What do you do if you come across a word you haven't seen before?

Non-fiction text

- What is this book about?
- Can you explain to me how I can find information in this book?
- When might I use this book?
- What do you do if you come across a word you haven't seen before?
- Which part of the book do you find most interesting and why?

When pupils are reading aloud, you might ask:

- Have you come across this word before?
- Do you know what the word means or can you work out what it means in this sentence?
- What other word could the author have used that means the same sort of thing?
- Why did you change your voice when you read that part of the sentence?

Writing

Younger pupils in the foundation phase

- Do you like writing?
- What do you like writing about?
- Can you write your name and what you like doing in school, if I help you?
- What do you do if you cannot spell a word?
- Do you sometimes write on a laptop or a tablet?
- Can you show me some of your writing?
- Do adults help you with your writing? How do they help you?
- Where do you do your writing?

Older pupils in the foundation phase

- What type of writing do you like best - writing stories, poems or information writing?
- What do you find easy about writing?
- What do you find difficult about writing?
- Do you sometimes plan your writing? Do you sometimes plan with a friend or in a group?
- What do you do if you cannot spell a word?
- Tell me how you wrote this story/these instructions etc?
- Can you show me a piece of your writing that you think is good?
- Do you ever go back to your work to try to make your writing better?
- How do you know which punctuation to use?
- How do you know how to set out your writing? Why have you written this in a list

etc?