

Beyond phonics

It is crucial to avoid reading being reduced only to phonics.

Schools will have reading books that are not entirely decodable through phonics alone. These books provide opportunities to read and enjoy books for pleasure, outside of phonic lessons and the phonic reading scheme. For many years, publishers have supported the organisation of these texts through the use of coloured book bands.

'Colour Book Bands provide a structure within a range of fiction and non-fiction titles from different reading series can be accommodated. This enables teachers to offer children a rich and varied experience of successful text reading.'

'Which Book and Why' (pg 102)

The following chart indicates the progression across Book Bands within a Primary School.

	Book Band
EYFS	Pink Band 1
	Red Band 2
	Yellow Band 3
Year 1	Blue Band 4
	Green Band 5
	Orange Band 6
Year 2	Turquoise Band 7
	Purple Band 8
	Gold Band 9
	White Band 10
Year 3/4	Lime Band 11
	KS2 Brown
Year 5/6	KS2 Grey
	KS2 Blue
	KS2 Red