Core principles and non-negotiables

Non-negotiable	What this means in practice
Fidelity	We follow THE Partnership Phonics Programme progression, lesson routines, terminology, assessment and matched resources. Supplementary materials must not introduce GPCs or word-reading strategies that conflict with the programme.
Daily teaching	Formal SSP teaching begins early in Reception and is taught daily. It continues for as long as pupils need it.
Phonics first	Pupils are taught to use phonic knowledge and blending as the route to decode unfamiliar words. They are not taught to guess words from pictures, context or first letters.
Matched practice	While pupils are learning to decode, the books they read themselves are closely matched to the GPCs and tricky words they have been taught.
Re-reading	Pupils re-read matched texts so accuracy develops into automaticity, fluency and confidence.
Keep up	Pupils at risk of falling behind are identified quickly and receive additional daily practice that is consistent with the main programme.
Language and books	Phonics is taught alongside a language-rich curriculum: daily reading aloud, talk, vocabulary, stories, rhymes, poetry and non-fiction.
Expert staff	Adults who teach phonics and additional practice are trained to use the programme consistently, including accurate pronunciation and agreed routines.
Foundational knowledge	We are precise about what pupils need to know and be able to do. Teaching, practice and assessment focus on securing

Non-negotiable	What this means in practice
	that knowledge rather than completing activities or moving on before learning is secure.
Practice to fluency	Coverage is not the same as learning. Pupils receive sufficient cumulative retrieval and application so taught knowledge becomes accurate, automatic and durable.
Equitable participation	Adults ensure every pupil participates in teaching, practice and book talk. Pupils with lower starting points, SEND, weaker communication and language, or other barriers are deliberately given the additional interaction and practice they need; learning is not left to choice or chance.