

Reading at St Helens

Reading is an essential part of our curriculum at St Helens Primary. We believe all children should be given the opportunities to become fluent, confident readers who are able to successfully comprehend and understand a wide range of genres. Our carefully selected texts are chosen to engage pupil interest and encourage them to develop a love of reading.

I LIKE BOOKS



By the end of year 6 we hope all of our children will be fluent and confident readers.

Our Reading Environment

- Every classroom has an age-related selection of books with a dedicated reading area. (Replenishing books is a high priority)
- Our library bus is a bespoke centre which supports reading opportunities for all pupils.
- All classrooms have an English working wall that provides information and support for children during each English Learning Journey.

Children have access to the Library Bus to enrich their reading journey.

Each week we have a whole school reading

Reading Skills

Fluency

Children's fluency within their reading is assessed at regular intervals through 1:1, small group or in whole class reading sessions. Additional 1:1 fluency sessions are available to children who require further support.

Comprehension

All pupils undertake comprehension activities based on a variety of texts and genres throughout the year. This helps children to develop retrieval, summarising and inference skills.

Reading in EYFS

The children are exposed to a wide range of texts from different genres, cultures and authors throughout their time in EYFS. They have the opportunity to act out stories with their peers using props from around the room.

Daily story times encourage the children to ask questions, make inferences, offer explanations for why things might happen, use recently introduced vocabulary and share their own experiences relating to the book.

Daily Bug Club sessions (phases 1-4) allow children to develop their phonological awareness through interactive activities. Follow up activities are available throughout the Early Years environment in order to practice and embed their learning.

Children in EYFS are issued a book each week which is read three times after which it can be changed; books are linked to the phonics they are learning in class, allowing the children to independently decode stories. They are encouraged to read at home for pleasure which can be shared with their family.

We encourage parents to read with their children in order to consolidate their learning.

Reading in Key Stage 1

Daily Bug Club sessions (phases 5-6) allow children to develop their phonological awareness through a sequence of lessons; year 1 take home one book which is changed when read three times and linked to the phonics they are learning in class, allowing the children to independently decode stories. The other book is a reading for pleasure book which can be shared with their family.

In Adventurers, we use a variety of rich texts that form our creative curriculum including reading and writing sessions; children will read both fiction and non-fiction books from a range of genres and cultures. Daily story times encourage the children to ask questions, make inferences and share their own experiences relating to the book.

In Year 2, those children who are still working on their decoding of phonics continue with decodable books as well as one for pleasure whereas more able readers move on to taking home two books that are reading for pleasure books from our Bug Club Reading Scheme.

We encourage parents to read with their children in order to consolidate their learning.

Reading in Lower Key Stage 2

In Discoverers, we select a range of texts that excite and simulate the children which include fiction, non-fiction and poetry. These texts are often linked to other curriculum areas.

Some children in Lower Key Stage 2 use our free reader books, where they have a wide selection of genres and authors.

Other children read books from Bug Club which is a reading scheme that helps to develop key skills to create deeper understanding of:

- Word Reading
- Summarising key events
- Language for Effect
- Select and Retrieve
- Themes and Conventions
- Respond and Explain
- Clarifying
- Inference

Weekly guided reading sessions, comprehension activities and independent reading opportunities help to embed these skills.

1:1 reading will take place through interventions such as Rapid Reading, for children who need further support.

Children are encouraged to read on a daily basis at home.

Reading in Upper Key Stage 2

In Pioneers, we continue to develop children's reading skills and promote their enjoyment of reading.

The majority of children in Upper Key Stage 2 use our free reader books, where they have a wide selection of genres and authors.

Year 6 pupils have bespoke reading sessions focussing on SATs style reading activities on a weekly basis. They discuss and refine their answers, building a strong understanding on what constitutes a full and appropriate answer.

Rapid Reading and **small group reading sessions** are available for children who require further support.

Progress is monitored through termly assessments which help to identify areas of need so that interventions can be put in place.

Children are encouraged to read on a daily basis at home.

In Year 6 we also have a "Book Club", where we share the same book over a six week period and we meet and discuss it every week during one lunchtime. The idea is that the children encourage each other (including more reluctant readers) to read and complete the book. Our last book was Skellig by David Almond.