



The Oaks Primary School Bringing Learning to Life

Home Reading Policy

Aims

- To encourage children to enjoy stories and to develop a love of literature
- To support the teaching of reading in school by practising taught skills
- To involve parents in their child's reading

Organisation

Children are taught to read in a variety of ways within school using different approaches and appreciating children's differing learning styles. Teaching reading is not an isolated activity but continues throughout the various curriculum areas in line with the principles outlined in the National Curriculum. Alongside the teaching of reading in school, we expect all parents/guardians to share books with their child and listen to them read every day, recording this in their child's school Reading Record.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One

One method of teaching reading is through phonics. Phonics is taught every day from Reception using The Oaks Phonics Curriculum – a bespoke curriculum that encompasses the National Curriculum and 'Letters and Sounds.'

Reading is also taught through guided reading sessions which take place at least once a week; mainly using the Oxford Reading Tree scheme, although is supported by poetry, non-fiction and themed texts. All these texts are stored in the Key Stage One shared resource area. On some occasions, the guided reading book is sent home to be continued or finished before the next guided reading session. It is expected that all books are returned to school in the same condition as they were sent home.

Home readers are stored centrally in the school resource areas. The home reading materials are graded to support reading in school and are intended for parents to share with their child in order to practise skills taught in school. The bulk of the school material available in Reception and Key Stage One as home readers is from the Rigby Star range but is supported by a range of other materials, including Oxford Reading Tree and Songbirds. There is a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The children are guided towards appropriate material but have a choice of title. The children take home two books at a time. They can change their books as often as they wish and it is their responsibility to do this independently.

Key Stage Two

In Key Stage Two, stand alone reading sessions takes place at least twice a week, with reading also being taught across the curriculum.

Home reading material in KS2 is stored in individual classrooms. These books are specifically chosen by the English Lead and teachers as being age appropriate for that year group and have the year group written in the top left hand corner of the inside front cover. These have been

matched with the books that feature on 'The Oaks Literature Spine' and the recommended year group reading lists. Books from home and the school library may be read as a child's reading book, if the teacher is confident it is a suitable level for the child.

Children have the opportunity to visit the library as a class and independently throughout the week, where they may change their book. As in Key Stage One, it is the children's responsibility to change their book and the number of books on loan at any one time is at the discretion of the class teacher.

A selection of books named by The Oaks as 'Owl Readers' are stored centrally in the KS2 resource area. These are a group of books taken from a number of different schemes that are organised into bands. These books are to bridge the transition from Year Two to Year Three by being slightly more structured than having complete free choice of the books in school. Although they are mainly used by children in Year Two and Three, they are also accessed by a number of children in years four, five and six who have been identified as having that need. Within the Owl Readers Library are selections of dyslexia friendly books, which children are directed to if these meet their needs.

All class libraries in school are also supported by project themed books, borrowed from the school library and the Bolton Schools Library Service. A selection of themed books are also permanently stored in classrooms if they are related to that particular year groups learning and projects.

All children, from Reception to Year Six, have a blue Reading Record, where books that have been read are recorded by both parents and adults who listen to children read in school. It is optional whether teachers or parents comment on their child's reading but there is space to do this if they so wish.

Children and parents are responsible for books that are sent home, therefore we ask parents to provide their child with an appropriate bag to carry the books to and from school. These bags are available from the schools uniform supplier.

This policy is supported by and must be read alongside the school's Library Policy.

C Hesketh
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