

Reading for Pleasure at St Mary and St Giles Primary School



At St Mary and Giles Church of England Primary School we actively encourage reading for pleasure and recognise it as a core part of every child's education, regardless of their background or attainment. We make reading a key part of our curriculum and expose pupils to a wide range of texts in a variety of different situations.

At St Mary and Giles we aim that every child becomes a lifelong reader. The national Literacy Trust has noted that becoming a lifelong reader is based on developing a deep love of reading. There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006). As well as this, reading enjoyment has been reported as more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status (OECD, 2002)

The Reading for Pleasure policy, although linked to the English policy, is its own policy focussing on the importance of reading and how we undertake it at St Mary and Giles. This policy focuses on the promotion and encouragement of reading as a pleasurable activity.

School Commitment

Access to a wide range of texts/books

At St Mary and Giles we give pupils opportunities to read a wide range of texts within the classroom. These texts include:

- fiction and non-fiction books
- picture books (age appropriate)
- poetry
- magazines and comics/graphic novels
- newspapers
- internet based texts
- other pupils' work e.g. book reviews, work on displays

Teacher's role

At St Mary and Giles the teachers and other adults have the important role of fostering a love of reading with the pupils. This is done through a wide range of activities:

Teachers regularly read aloud to pupils

- Studies show that children who are read to aloud are more likely to do better in school both academically and socially. Teachers have a selection of core texts which they read aloud to the pupils throughout the year so that by the end of year 6 the pupils have a common bank of stories that they all know.
- Effective reading aloud time is about creating a positive reading experience to engage pupils, so teachers model their enthusiasm for books and reading them. Teachers interact with the pupils during this reading time, sharing thoughts, putting on voices and using actions and asking questions to improve comprehension.

Teachers encourage a love of reading and promote the reading of a wide range of books.

- As role models to the pupils, teachers model themselves as readers by discussing their own reading experiences with pupils. Teachers recommend books to pupils and complete book reviews promoting books they have read. Teachers also encourage reading for pleasure by ensuring that pupils can use the library, that they can choose books to read at home from the reading scheme books and that they record and get rewarded for reading at home.

Reading for Pleasure

Resources are available and promote reading.

Every year group/classroom has a class library with a variety of texts including fiction, non-fiction, texts from different cultures and poetry. All children have access to the school library.



Activities to Promote Reading for Pleasure

Class novels

Every teacher will read a core selection of class books to the pupils throughout the course of the year. Alongside these core texts the class teacher supplements reading with their or pupils choices of great texts.

Book Days

Celebrating book days is a good way of promoting reading and creating a buzz around reading. Pupils and staff are given the opportunities to dress up as their favourite book character and discuss this with their class. Activities for the day are based around reading and the sharing of experiences, books and authors.

Links with home and parents/guardians

Pupils take home school books to read with parents or independently every night, this is recorded in their reading records.

Information about book days/activities is shared with parents via the school newsletters and website.

Links with the local library

Pupils in Year 3 have the opportunity during the school year to visit the local library. An important factor in developing reading for pleasure is choice. At the library pupils are shown how to find and choose books of interest to them. Pupils also get the chance to borrow books to read and share with their friends at school. Visiting the library with the school encourages pupils to visit the library outside of school hours and involve their parents and siblings.

Use of the school library

All pupils have a weekly timetabled library session. These sessions are used to introduce new books and/or authors, share reading experiences and give recommendations. Primarily this time is used for the pupils to browse the broad selection of books and choose what is of interest to them.