

Westvale Primary School Reading for Pleasure Policy September 2021



"Schools that take the business of reading for pleasure seriously, where teachers read, talk with enthusiasm and recommend books, and where provision for reading is planned carefully, are more likely to succeed with their pupils' reading." (Ofsted)

Why do we promote 'reading for pleasure'?

At Westvale Primary school we believe that reading should be a pleasurable and inspirational experience. As part of our vision and values, we want our children to be enthused by books and grow into adults who will actively choose to read and who will pass their love of books onto future generations.

We believe that children who read for pleasure deepen their understanding of the world around them and develop their compassion towards others. A book can transport you through time, take you to exotic destinations and allow you to be inspired by brave, heroic deeds. All of our children have access to books and we want the thrill of reading to encourage them to aspire to achieve their dreams.

How do we promote 'reading for pleasure'?

By giving children the freedom of choice. We know that everyone has different preferences but also believe that you cannot make a choice until you have experienced a wide range of genres and text types. We value all reading and we actively promote reading newspapers, play scripts, comics, online stories and manuals as valid reading options as well as more traditional fiction and non-fiction books. Children have access to these resources in their classrooms, through use of iPads, within our Reading Zone, Class Libraries and Kirkby library. We aim to develop positive attitudes towards reading and foster a love of books through an enthusiastic reading culture.

By being great models for reading.

We know that children absorb everything that happens around them which is why we encourage all adults in our school to model enjoyment for reading themselves. Our classes have whole class novels or daily story time sessions where teachers, teaching assistants and children can share a book they enjoy together. Children can benefit tremendously from being read to aloud. Effective reading aloud time helps to create a positive reading experience which engages pupils and allows adults to model their enthusiasm for books and reading. It also allows whole class interaction, development of inference and deduction skills by stopping to ask questions about what has been read or discussing the pictures they have been shown, and helps to improve pupils' comprehension of a story. This academic year we will continue to strive to encourage our parents to get involved by organising events, initiatives and workshops to promote an enjoyment of reading; it's our aim to share with parents how we encourage a love of reading at our school and demonstrate how they can develop the same culture at home.

Reading for pleasure is very highly regarded in our school, and the children's voices are paramount to this. We celebrate World Book Day at Westvale where children dress up as their favourite characters from a book. They also bring in their favourite book or a book that they have enjoyed. Parents are invited into school and a range of fun, engaging activities take place. In order to widen the spectrum of styles and genres our children are exposed to, each class studies significant children's authors throughout the year and immerse themselves in their collection of work. We celebrate children's love of reading by sharing book reviews and recommendations within school. Pupil Voice is central to the school ethos, and this year, we aim to use pupil voice to guide the purchase of books throughout the school. Pupil questionnaires are used to gain an insight into the reading habits/interests/preferences of the children. We allocate time within our school timetable for children to spend time enjoying reading, such as library time, class reader/story time and visits to Kirkby Library wherever possible.

We have the 'Book Bus' visit regularly to encourage children and parents to try new books. Where we believe that children have little access to good quality books the school tries to provide compensatory measures which allow equality of access to all children.

What facilities/events does the school have to encourage 'enjoyment for reading'?

- Investment in range of books.
- Stimulating reading Zone
- Reading Buddies

- Planned activities around World Book Day
- Special reading areas in each classroom
- Author focuses in each class.
- Time in the school day dedicated to school library time, class/reader story time
- Reading display boards throughout the school

- Parents invited in planned events, initiatives and workshops to promote an enjoyment of and desire to engage in shared reading.
- Visiting book bus
- Wide range of engaging reading books

What will this achieve?

Studies have found that children who express an enjoyment for reading at a young age usually go on to be very academically successful. At Westvale Primary, the active encouragement of reading for pleasure is a core part of every child's entitlement, whatever their background or attainment. Westvale strongly believes that extensive reading and a wide exposure to a range of texts makes a vital contribution to every child's educational achievement and will help to establish each child as a lifetime reader based on developing a love of reading.

In addition to this, we also want our children to leave school feeling confident, inspired and curious about the world around them. Reading for pleasure and developing a love of reading can give children all of these things; we firmly believe and advocate that reading for pleasure impacts on children's futures and their life chances.

This policy, although linked to the Literacy Policy, stands alone in its promotion and encouragement of reading as a pleasurable activity and is used to engrain the School's philosophy of a love of reading throughout life.

