



Ideas for Supporting Reading for Pleasure

Read yourself

UKLA research into Teachers as Readers demonstrated that unless teachers are readers and know contemporary authors and books, they are unable to introduce their pupils to a broad range of literature. Ofsted is looking for evidence that teachers know about contemporary writers and poets.

Make the best books available to pupils

Make an effort to find out about the best authors and who your pupils' favourite authors are and ensure those books are available in your school.

Keep up to date with what is being published

There are about 10,000 new titles published each month but there are ways to find out about the best of them, for example by visiting your local bookshop, or signing up to ReadingZone's newsletters here: <http://www.readingzone.com/index.php?zone=sz&page=newsletter>

Lobby for a school library

Libraries, and trained librarians, should be the hub of a school's learning activity and you will value the professional support that librarians offer. School libraries are a life-line to books for children – especially those who don't have books at home.

Lobby for your school to subscribe to a School Library Service

A School Library Service is a regional service that specialises in supplying books to schools, updating school libraries, keeping you informed about new books etc. The services they provide vary; here are the links to regional SLS's and the services they provide:

http://www.readingzone.com/index.php?zone=sz&page=school_library_archive&id=11

Build your own class library

Especially if there is no school library, a class library will give children access to books they need to develop a passion for reading. Ensure there is space to relax and read, areas for displays and reviews, and new books regularly displayed. Make boys as well as girls library monitors.

Develop your materials and its range

Non-fiction books, graphic novels, comics and newspapers all have a place in every well-stocked library.

Build time into your timetable for reading for pleasure

Some schools put aside half an hour every day for the whole school to stop and read.

Insist on read-aloud sessions

Every day! Share whole books with your class – here are some ideas to begin with:

http://www.readingzone.com/index.php?zone=sz&page=book_lists

Read across the curriculum

Reading is not just for English lessons and Ofsted wants to see evidence of reading across all subjects – History, Geography, Science etc. Again, here are some ideas to start with:

http://www.readingzone.com/index.php?zone=sz&page=book_lists

Set up book clubs

You can create book clubs for enthusiastic as well as reluctant readers. Either target particular children or open it up to everyone. Encourage children to recommend books to each other, bring in book selections they can take home to read, and don't forget the nibbles – juice and biscuits – for each event.

Encourage children to join their public library

Better still, take them to the library! Encourage children to read outside of school and to get specialist recommendations. Some children don't realise that libraries also provide internet access and space to do homework etc – or that they are free!

Promote the Summer Reading Challenge

Most libraries will run a Summer Reading Challenge, challenging children (six to 11 years) to read six books during the summer holidays. This helps keep their reading levels up during the summer break, and you can celebrate the achievement by presenting their certificates in assembly in the Autumn.

Visit your local bookshop

Local bookshops often run events with authors and can help children with recommendations etc, so pay them a visit with your class. Often children (and parents) can feel too intimidated to enter bookshops without an introduction.

Get families involved with their child's reading

Many parents see it as the school's role to teach their children to read and underestimate the importance of reading at home, library and bookshop visits etc

Get children involved in book-based projects

Involve them in creating author displays, creating video book trailers, making plays out of stories etc. ReadingZone's Create a Picture Book competition launches every January – children can work together and as picture books don't need a lot of words, it's a great project for less confident writers.

Use assemblies

To talk about new books / tell stories / act out stories

Invite authors and illustrators to visit – one of the best ways to INSPIRE READERS!

Find out about authors you can invite and how to set up your own author events here:

<http://www.readingzone.com/index.php?zone=sz&page=authorvisits>

Ensure reading for pleasure is at the heart of school's improvement strategy

Persuade the head!

"Finding ways to engage pupils in reading may be one of the most effective ways to leverage social change" (Reading for Change, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2002)

"As students become engaged readers, they provide themselves with self-generated learning opportunities that are equivalent to several years of education." (Guthrie J.T. and Wigfield A., Engagement and Motivation in Reading, 2000)