



Boutcher C.E. Primary School Reading for Pleasure Policy Statement

At Boutcher C.E. Primary School, we believe that children deserve a rich curriculum which encourages extensive reading of a range of whole books. We believe that active encouragement of reading for pleasure is part of every child's educational entitlement, whatever their background or attainment. We know that extensive reading and exposure to a wide range of texts makes a huge contribution to their educational achievement, increases their general knowledge and takes them beyond their own life experiences.

We aim to promote the concepts of reading for fun, enjoyment and pleasure and we ensure that we include a range of text types within the curriculum. Texts include those from current, award-winning authors, to classic tales and poems, to wordless picture books. As well as this, we provide the opportunity for sustained reading of a range of other self-chosen fiction and non-fiction texts from our classroom libraries and the school library.

We use our class libraries to promote favourite texts as well as encourage children to continue reading other materials by authors they have studied in English.

Our school library is a resource which children enjoy using. Our librarian ensures that the library is a tidy, well-organised space for the children to relax in when choosing texts for pleasure. Display boards are changed regularly to keep in line with topics and authors being covered in school. Each class has an allocated library session where children are able to choose a text to borrow and read at home. New books are regularly purchased to keep our choices current and the children enjoy subscriptions to magazines and newspapers.

The library is open to children in Key Stage Two for 'early morning readers' and during lunch times, the librarian reads with children on a one-to-one basis, reading with children across all year groups each week. Alongside this, we have a successful volunteer reading scheme in place for children in Key Stage Two, which is now in its fourth year. Feedback tracked termly through questionnaires shows that children have an increased enjoyment for reading, make improvements to their understanding of vocabulary and are 'inspired to be strong readers' and 'proud' of their achievements.

The library is run by our school librarian and supported by Reading Ambassadors who have roles and responsibilities to keep the library functioning and to develop a positive reading ethos throughout the school. Children are given the opportunity to apply for this position at the start of the academic year and meet with the librarian regularly to monitor responsibilities and discuss ideas for developing reading.

Each year, we celebrate World Book Day and children enjoy booked-based activities throughout the week. Children are encouraged to bring in a book for our 'book swap' and we hold a catwalk to showcase the costumes children wear of their favourite book characters.

Last year, we held our second Boutcher readathon which further encouraged reading for pleasure across the school whilst raising funds to purchase books for our library and class reading areas. We invited parents and carers into our library after school to enjoy the space and read with their child/children and also hosted our first 'big breakfast' where parents/carers and children could share a book over a breakfast which the school provided.

We regularly enjoy visits from authors and illustrators in school and children have opportunities to be exposed to new books and be inspired to write themselves through these visits.

We try to ensure that there is an opportunity for professional development for teaching and support staff to explore the huge range of reading materials and enable them to support children in their reading choices. We work closely with English consultants from The Literary Curriculum and some teachers attend training at the Centre for Literacy in the Primary Curriculum (CLPE).

We believe that staff and adults who work at Boutcher C.E. Primary School should be reading role models and we try to ensure that adults share their favourite texts with the children in class.