

## Reading for Pleasure Policy – 2016/17

**Children who read for pleasure do significantly better at school. Children who read for pleasure make more progress in mathematics, vocabulary and spelling, as well as in reading.**

*(Institute of Education, University of London research 2013)*

**Evidence suggests that there is a positive relationship between reading frequency, reading enjoyment and attainment.**

*(Clark 2011; Clark and Douglas 2011).*

**Parents and the home environment are essential to the early teaching of reading and fostering a love of reading; children are more likely to continue to be readers in homes where books and reading are valued.**

*(Clark and Rumbold, 2006).*

**Reading for pleasure is strongly influenced by relationships between teachers and children, and children and families**

*(Cremin et al, 2009).*

### **What is 'Reading for Pleasure'?**

Reading for Pleasure means *any* reading that is primarily for enjoyment. It includes both fiction and non-fiction and can be printed or electronic media.

### **Why is 'Reading for Pleasure' important?**

Like anything else, reading is a skill that becomes better with practise. It increases the sense of achievement, confidence, self-esteem and widens horizons. It exposes learners to a richer variety of vocabulary and makes them more articulate. At STAR Academy we aim to foster a love of reading that stretches beyond the physical boundaries of our school to our learners' homes and families.

### **How can I help my child 'Read for Pleasure' at home?**

We ask parents and carers of children at STAR Academy to commit to reading with their children, for pleasure, for up to 20 minutes a day, every day.

We have colour banded all the books in our academy according to their difficulty levels, vocabulary and sentence structures. Your child will be sent home with TWO books, one book that is a banded reading book and one book on loan from our community library (ideal for reading for pleasure).

We are fortunate at STAR academy that our banded reading books range from emergent readers (phonics-based picture books) to titles with a reading age of 15. This is mirrored in our library where our books are grouped by age range and interest level.



You can help develop your child's fluency in reading by:

- Reading the text to your child
- Have them read it to you (maybe several times)
- Talk about what's happening and what might happen next in the text (re-telling the story in their own words is important for developing language)
- Talk about any illustrations and getting your child to draw their own
- Enjoying and discussing the book together

If your child is reading a book and they get stuck on a word, you could help them by:

- Sounding out the word – particularly the initial sound (a technique the children learn in phonics)
- Look for smaller words within the word e.g. sunshine can be broken down into 'sun' and 'shine' which is easier to sound out.
- Ask your child to use the illustrations to support them

### How is this different from the teaching of reading in School?

Children have lots of opportunities to 'Read for Pleasure' in School. In addition your child is taught different reading strategies using more challenging texts within shared and guided reading sessions.

### What else can I do to encourage 'Reading for Pleasure'?

Join our community library. Parents, grandparents and carers can join our community library for free and borrow up to three books at a time. There are also many good local libraries in the Stoke-on-Trent area (including Tunstall and Hanley) that organise reading sessions during the school holidays.

Attend our reading sessions within school. Join your children in sharing books and reading material and learn how to use effective questioning strategies.

We use the following system of banded reading books:



Age	3-4		4-5			5-6			6-7				7-8		8-9		9-10		10-11			
Year Group	Reception / P1			Year 1 / P2			Year 2/ P3				Year 2-3/ P3-4		Year 3/P4		Year 4 / P5		Year 5/ P6		Year 6/ P7		Year 6+/ P7+	
National Curriculum Level	Towards 1			1			Towards 2		2		2+ Towards 3			2-3 Towards 3		3		3+		4-5		
Band	0 Lilac	1A Pink A	1B Pink B	2A Red A	2B Red B	3 Yellow	4 Blue	5 Green	6 Orange	7 Turquoise	8 Purple	9 Gold	10 White	11 Lime	12 Copper	13 Topaz	14 Ruby	15 Emerald	16 Sapphire	17 Diamond	18 Pearl	

***There are many little ways to enlarge your child's mind. A love of books is the best of all.***

Jacqueline Onassis Kennedy

