Reading for Pleasure Policy 2021

“Write to be understood. Speak to be heard. Read to grow.”

Lawrence Clark Powell

Rationale

Reading for pleasure is a vital part of every child’s educational entitlement. Developing a love of reading has huge benefits for children, contributing to pupils’ educational achievement across the curriculum in addition to providing a lifetime of enjoyment. We believe in both the importance of developing children’s discrete word-reading skills and comprehension, and the need to engender their love of books and reading. We recognise that these two elements are intertwined: each relies on the other if children are to become life-long readers.

At Christ the King Catholic Primary Academy, the active encouragement of reading for pleasure is a core part of every child’s entitlement, whatever their background or attainment. CTK strongly believes that extensive reading and a wide exposure to a range of texts makes a vital contribution to every child’s educational achievement.

Reading for pleasure at CTK aims to establish each child as a lifetime reader based on developing a love of reading. We believe that reading for pleasure impacts on children’s futures and their life chances. According to the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) ‘finding ways to engage pupils in reading may be one of the most effective ways to leverage social change’.

To facilitate this, we ensure our children are given a rich curriculum which encourages reading of books and other kinds of texts. At CTK, we aim to promote the concepts of reading for ‘enjoyment’ and ‘pleasure’.

With so much competition for children’s time and attention it is vital that we embed a culture of reading into the core of what we do as a school, helping every child to become a lifelong reader.

What we do:

- Ensure there is a range of age-related fiction and non-fiction within each class via the class book corners.

- Encourage every staff member to be a role model, sharing and promoting a love for reading.

- Devote time to professional development for staff so they are effective teachers of reading, are advocates for reading, promote a love of reading in all children, and have a good knowledge of children’s literature.

- Develop well-resourced, attractive book corners/reading areas in all classrooms, making sure books, reading material and resources are attractively displayed and well organised.

- Display children’s own published books, comments, book reviews, reading journals etc. prominently.

- Employ different elements of the curriculum to develop children as readers: whole class English lessons, guided reading, independent reading, listening to adult reading aloud and reading in curriculum areas other than English, allay an important part of teaching children to enjoy reading.

- Build time every day for all children to read independently, read aloud and be read to during the school day.

- Ensure children have time to talk about books with each other and with adults. We celebrate children’s love of reading by ensuring book reviews and recommendations are visible within school.

- Enable opportunities for reading to take place both in and outside of the classroom and in and outside of the school.

- The school encourages links with parents by ensuring every child has a Reading Journal’ that records all reading habits, signed by parents and monitored by class teachers.

- Celebrate RFP on special days, including World Book Day and Roald Dahl Day, with various engaging events.

-Regular opportunities for each class to use our School Library during curriculum time, as well as opportunities for children to use the Library with the guidance of our UKS2 Library Experts during breaktimes.

- Reading Buddy systems with Year 6 and Reception, as well as our lunchtime Reading Rangers (UKS2 children who read with younger children at lunchtimes).

- Organise poet, author and drama group visits.

- Facilitate various reading-related fundraising activities with our active PTA committee, including Read-a-thons and termly book sales.

- Encourage children to complete our annual Summer Reading Bingo challenges and travelling Story Sacks.

- Dedicate a section of our termly school newspaper, ‘CTK Times’ to book recommendations and reviews written by UKS2 children.

This policy is used to engrain the School’s philosophy of a love of reading throughout life.

