

St Martin's Catholic Primary School



Reading for Pleasure Policy

Our Mission Statement

**"At St. Martin's Catholic Primary School,
the Governors and Staff, in partnership with the Parents,
aim to help each child realise their full Spiritual,
Moral, Academic and Social Potential in a
happy, caring, Catholic Community
in which each member feels valued"**

Reading for Pleasure Policy

Intent

At St Martin's we actively encourage reading for pleasure and recognise it as a core part of every child's education, regardless of their background or attainment. We make reading a key part of our curriculum and expose pupils to a wide range of texts in a variety of different situations.

We want every child to become a lifelong reader. The national Literacy Trust has noted that becoming a lifelong reader is based on developing a deep love of reading. There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006). As well as this, reading enjoyment has been reported as more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status (OECD, 2002)

This policy focuses on the promotion and encouragement of reading as a pleasurable activity.

School Commitment

1. Access to a wide range of texts/books

At St Martin's we give pupils opportunities to read a wide range of texts within the classroom. These texts include:

- fiction and non-fiction books
- picture books (age appropriate)
- poetry
- magazines and comics/graphic novels
- newspapers
- internet based texts
- other pupils' work e.g. book reviews, work on displays

2. Teacher's role

At St Martin's the teachers and other adults have the important role of fostering a love of reading with the pupils. This is done through a wide range of activities:

- **Teachers regularly read aloud to pupils**
Studies show that children who are read to aloud are more likely to do better in school both academically and socially. Teachers have a selection of core texts which they read aloud to the pupils throughout the year so that by the end of year 6 the pupils have a common bank of stories that they all know.
Effective reading aloud time is about creating a positive reading experience to engage pupils, so teachers model their enthusiasm for books and reading them. Teachers interact with the pupils during this reading time, sharing thoughts, putting on voices and using actions and asking questions to improve comprehension.
- **Teachers encourage a love of reading and promote the reading of a wide range of books**
As role models to the pupils, teachers model themselves as readers by discussing their own reading experiences with pupils. Teachers recommend books to pupils. Teachers also encourage reading for pleasure by ensuring that pupils can use the library, that they can choose books to read at home.

- **Resources are available and promote reading.**
Every classroom in EYFS and KS1 has a class library with a variety of texts including fiction, non-fiction, texts from different cultures and poetry. All children have access to the school library.

3. Activities to Promote Reading for Pleasure

- **Class Readers**

Every teacher will read a core selection of class books to the pupils throughout the course of the year. In the EYFS and Year 1 these include a selection of over 50 books in RWI's Talk Through Stories Units. Pupils in Years 2-6 will read at least 6 books per year as part of their VIPERS lessons. Alongside these core texts the class teacher supplements reading with their or pupils choices of great texts.

- **Reading challenges**

Pupils are set reading challenges to complete during school holidays. These are encouraged by teachers and rewards given to pupils who are successful with the challenge. As part of these challenges pupils are encouraged to engage in activities including taking photographs of themselves reading somewhere unusual and making their own book covers.

- **Book Club**

This is an after school club to engage children in reading and discussing books. Pupils will read books selected by the teacher at home and at school and then share ideas, explore differences of opinion and find common interests.

4. Links with home and parents/guardians

- Pupils take home school books to read with parents or independently every night. Pupils fill in a comment in a reading record.
- Reading recommendations for each year group are sent home for parents.
- Reading workshops are held for the parents

5. Use of the school library

Children regularly access the school library and are able to borrow books to take home, children are encouraged to discuss and recommend library books to their peers.

Library books are regularly updated in line with 'Recommended Reads' for year groups, ensuring there are a wide range of diverse texts, including classic and more contemporary releases.

6. Reading for Pleasure across the Curriculum

At St Martin's we recognise that pupils often want to read more about the subjects they are learning within the curriculum. To facilitate this we have a range of books linking to areas of

learning in science, history and geography, art, computer science and English units of study. Pupils are encouraged to read and discuss these texts with their peers. Pupils are given independent reading time daily.

An annual budget is allocated for books and meets the demands and needs for each academic year. The budget takes into account the need to replenish and update stock.

7. Professional Development and Support

Professional support, coaching, training and guidance is made available for staff to support their understanding and develop their skills in promoting reading for pleasure through:

- Staff meetings and INSET
- Discussions with SLT and Reading Subject Leader
- Discussions and good practice within teams
- Wider reading/research on 'Reading for Pleasure'