



CATHEDRAL
SCHOOLS
TRUST



BRISTOL CATHEDRAL
CHOIR SCHOOL

Gathered together, that all may thrive

Policy Name:	Reading for Pleasure Policy (RfP)	
Review Cycle:	Annual	
Author:	Roz Kier	
Link Governor:		
Approved by:		Date:

Date	Summary of Changes
11.2.2021	Policy Updated

Policy Contents

[Why have a RfP policy?](#)

[Aims:](#)

[Objectives:](#)

[What we do now:](#)

[Library staff:](#)

[What we recommend:](#)

[Immediate actions for 2020/21:](#)

Why have a RfP policy?

2014 Ofsted requirement for schools to have a reading for pleasure policy.

Poor literacy skills stand in the way of children and young people achieving their potential, businesses need to be able to recruit people with the right skills, the success of our economy is underpinned by literate and knowledgeable people”

Beating Heart of the school 2014¹

Reading books is the only out of school activity for 16 year olds linked to getting a managerial or professional job in later life

National Literacy Trust 2011²

An underperforming pupil can take part in a 6 week RfP scheme and catch up by 3 months academically.

A society of readers 2018³

The best way to promote reading development is by instilling in children a passion for reading. Children who love reading will read more and over time. Choose literature which is more demanding and suitably stretching. It creates a virtuous circle: as the amount the children reads increases, their reading attainment improves which in turn encourages them to read more. All reading makes a difference, but evidence suggests that reading for pleasure makes the most.

Clark, C and De Zoysa, S (2011)⁴

From the beginning of primary school to the end of secondary school, students with an average daily reading time of more than 30 minutes are likely to encounter 13.7million words, while pupils who average less than 15mins are likely to encounter 1.5 million. Vocabulary levels affect academic attainment and pupils’ wider life chances and mental health. A RfP policy can help plug the word gap but only if systems are used in school to help the students gain fluency and confidence in their reading.

Renaissance Research 2020⁵

¹ All Party Parliamentary Group for Education. (2014). [The Beating Heart Of The School: Improving educational attainment through school libraries and librarians](#). London: CILIP.

² Clark, C and De Zoysa, S. (2011). Mapping the interrelationships of reading enjoyment, attitudes, behaviour and attainment: An exploratory investigation. London: National Literacy Trust.

³ Hilhorst, S et al. (2018). [A Society of Readers](#). London: Demos.

⁴ Clark, C and De Zoysa, S. (2011). Mapping the interrelationships of reading enjoyment, attitudes, behaviour and attainment: An exploratory investigation. London: National Literacy Trust.

⁵ Topping, K et al. (2020) [What kids are reading 2020](#):The Book-Reading Behaviours of Pupils in British and Irish Schools. London: Renaissance Learning.

Aims:

The RfP policy at Bristol Cathedral Choir School should foster and encourage a lifelong enjoyment for reading amongst the whole school community.

It should:

- Encourage independent and creative thinking;
- Develop an appreciation of different cultures and values;
- Develop a wider knowledge of the world in our students;
- Create empathetic, caring and confident citizens;
- Foster relaxation and concentration;
- Enhance social, emotional and economic development.

Objectives:

- To establish a love of reading for pleasure amongst all our students.
- To ensure students have access to their **own choice** of reading material that they enjoy.
- To ensure a broad variety of reading material is available for students to use on a regular basis.
- To introduce students to new texts and genres.
- To develop home/school links to support/encourage reading for pleasure at home.
- The opportunity for students to see that staff/adults from all areas across the school foster a love of reading in a variety of ways.

What we do now:

- The Library is staffed by two qualified librarians who carefully manage the library collections.
- The Library is open from 8am to 4.30pm each day (3.30pm on Fridays) and is open before tutor time and for break and lunch, enabling students' access to reading material. *During current Covid-19 restrictions, the library is accessible via a Click and Deliver service and a mobile book trolley in timetabled library lessons.*
- Parents/carers are asked to sign a library membership form upon enrolling their child in school, acknowledging library policies and encouraging communication about student choice of reading material.
- The majority of the library budget (£1890) is spent on KS3 books and events.
- Students are able to recommend books for purchase.

Library staff:

- Curate suggested reading lists for students and staff and provide assistance to help students select books they will enjoy.
- Provide a variety of reading formats to give the students a broad choice. As well as a large range of fiction, including newly published titles, we also have a large non-fiction selection to suit all abilities. There are also magazines, manga books, e-readers, audio books and MP3 players for students who need tailored reading support.
- Lead a library lesson for years 7, 8 and 9 once every two weeks to introduce the classes to new texts and genres. Librarians are present for the whole lesson to give suggestions, encourage RfP, and provide ease of access to library materials.
- Manage the '**On track**' reading scheme for years 7, 8 and 9. Students read books from On track guides and use the guides to discover what to read next. The students are able to make free choices within their range about which books they read. The guides are arranged in genres and are graded with levels of

difficulty so readers can read on. This is achieved formally through teaching and library staff and informally through book discussion.

- Operate Bookbuzz scheme to ensure pupil premium students have access to books of their own.
- Facilitate visit to Central Library and encourage all years to join their local library to access additional resources.
- Run student reading groups that meet each week at breakfast or during the school day. Year 9 book club reads the BTBA, the Carnegie Book awards and the Year 7 focuses on Reading for Pleasure.
- Present at Year 7 information evening on the importance of reading.
- Run programs for Reading week after World Book Day: no homework is set for years 7, 8 and 9. Students and parents complete a record card to record what has been read.
- Facilitate a variety of whole-school reading events for year groups.
- Create reading-focused displays for all staff to participate in.
- Manage engaging and interactive social media channels on Twitter and Instagram to promote RfP, library materials, and events.
- Ensure the Library is an attractive and welcoming reading environment for students.
- Encourage staff to read young adult literature. Promote select mystery books for staff to read and review.

What we recommend:

- Develop a 'Reading for Pleasure' culture and provide a broad range of materials. Increased funding would allow us to provide more tailored, high-quality resources for reading. The SLA recommends a budget of around £15 per student to adequately fund a library. The budget needs to be increased.
- Establish stronger links with parents/carers to assist them in encouraging their children to redirect **more** of their free time to reading, as opposed to other technological pursuits. Library staff should host open evenings for parents once a term.
- Include a focus on reading at parents' evenings, including book sales and presentations.
- Administer reading surveys for year 7 and 9.
- Add a 'book slot' to assemblies to increase awareness of available materials and promote RfP.
- Liaise between tutors and subject leads and the library to encourage tutor time reading and subject reading.
- Develop a partner reading scheme with adult volunteers coming to read with students who need additional help.
- Provide opportunities for inset and training on reading for pleasure.

Immediate actions for 2020/21:

- Adopt the RfP policy.
- Conduct surveys to establish students current reading trends (Upon entry in Year 7 and then a survey in Year 9 will be implemented to highlight any changes).
- Increase in library funding annually.
- One off spend of ~£4000 to replace missing book stock.
- Link to adult volunteers to read with students.
- Add a 'book slot' in assemblies.
- Add 'reading book' to the list of essential student equipment.

“At the moment that we persuade a child, any child to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better.

It's an enormous force for good.”

Barack Obama