

# **GRIFFIN PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Reading for Pleasure

## Building an Outstanding Reading School

### 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.

At Griffin Park Primary School 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.

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.

Our aim is that every child leaves the school able to read well, with a love of books and reading, regardless of background.

### Principles

At Griffin Park Primary School, we:

- believe that every child can learn to read with the right teaching and support
- acknowledge that not all children will have had the opportunity to develop a love of reading at home, so this has to be taught and encouraged at school – just like any other area of the curriculum
- place reading and books at the centre of the curriculum.

### Provision for reading for pleasure

At Griffin Park Primary School, we seek to develop children's love of reading through:

#### 1) Supporting staff

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

#### 2) Teaching the reading curriculum

- Employing different elements of the curriculum to develop children as readers: whole-class English lessons, guided reading, independent reading, listening to an adult reading aloud and reading in curriculum areas other than English, all play an important part in teaching children to enjoy reading.
- Building time every day for all children to read independently, read aloud and be read to during the school day.
- Ensuring children have time to talk about books with each other and with adults.

### 3) Engaging parents

- Involving parents to ensure the culture of reading that the school has developed extends into the home.
- Ensuring there is a genuine two-way communication with parents about reading, both through formal evaluations, questionnaires and meetings, and through informal conversations between families and staff members.
- Providing advice and support for families with reading in as clear and accessible manner as possible, making use of written, online and face-to-face communication.
- Inviting parents into school for events connected with reading: special assemblies, author visits, as volunteers, for book fairs and to meet and talk regularly.
- Working to encourage reading with families who can find it difficult to connect with school.
- Providing books and other reading resources, such as story sacks, games, puppets and IT resources to support parents and children to enjoy reading together.
- Offering parents access to our school library and book resources.

### 4) Developing the reading environment

- Ensuring our school library is used effectively to support pupils' reading.
- Developing well-resourced, attractive books corners/reading areas in all classrooms.
- Making sure books, reading material and resources are attractively displayed and well organised.
- Displaying children's own published books, comments, book reviews, reading journals, etc. prominently.
- Ensuring children are responsible for setting up/maintaining/organising book areas.

### 5) Targeting resources

- Providing motivating books and resources to engage children with reading. Drawn from a range of genres and types, including books and resources appropriate for: children who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL), children with identified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and that reflect a wide range of children's cultural and social experiences.
- Making effective use of electronic texts such as eBooks or online texts.
- Involving staff with specific expertise about children's reading material in purchasing/developing reading resources.
- Involving children in the resourcing of reading across the school.

### 6) Celebrating reading

- Taking part in national events or initiatives such as World Book Day or National Poetry Day.
- Hosting visits by authors or illustrators.
- Giving children the opportunity to talk about books through reading with a reading volunteer, attending library club or after school/break time reading groups.
- Using the school website to promote and share books and reading.

- Maintaining close links with a range of partners, including the local library.

### Monitoring reading for pleasure

At Griffin Park Primary School we evaluate our provision for reading for pleasure through:

- Annual surveys of children, parents and staff.
- Analysis of pupil questionnaires and reading attainment data.
- Audits of resources.
- Observations of how resources are used in teaching.
- Ongoing dialogue with parents and governors.
- Observations of teaching.
- Scrutiny of teachers' planning at different levels.
- Audits of the physical environment.

### Review

Policy created: November 2015

Policy adopted:

Review date: annually

Responsibility: the English subject leader and governor responsible for English.