

**EDUCATION GUIDANCE**

**Ideas to support creating a reading culture**

**Produced: April 2019**

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**Creating a Reading Culture in Schools**

“Where a reading culture has been successfully developed across the school, there are consistently high expectations about the frequency and quality of reading.” *3-18 Literacy and English Review (Education Scotland 2015)*

**Engaging pupils**

* Have a regular Drop Everything And Read (“DEAR, DEAR, DEAR”). This can be a useful tactic to calm a class.
* Who can be photographed reading in the most obscure / entertaining place? (NB risk assess / engage parents)
* Have older pupils read to younger pupils – have set times in the week where this happens. NB low ability readers reading to P1 pupils has a positive impact on self-perception as a reader.
* Book Bingo – pupils choose an activity on a square with the aim of crossing 5 squares in a row. Example squares: a book about war / a book that’s over 300 pages / a book with animals in it / a poetry book etc

**Reviewing / Recommending books to other pupils**

* Recommendation Bookmarks – pupils create bookmarks to leave inside books when they’re returned to the library. On the bookmark they put their book recommendations to other readers
* QR code book reviews – QR codes placed in books for others to read reviews of that book / recommendations for others
* Ask pupils to choose a person in their life for whom to choose a book so they have to think about why it might appeal to them
* Create a lonely hearts display – ‘book seeks reader’ with description – for books that haven’t been borrowed in a while
* Ask children to create and contribute to themed book lists e.g. horror, graphic novels, best opening lines, funny books, books with the best villains etc
* Create a class blog
* Have a reading recommendations wall in every classroom
* Have a 5 minute slot in assemblies for book recommendations
* Wall displays sharing pupil opinions on books covering 3 areas: what puzzles them, likes / dislikes & connections
* Every class has a tree – add a leaf to the tree whenever anyone finishes a book
* Have reading reflection jotters – these can be more free form than end of book tasks – can be filled in at any point, in any way

**Engaging staff**

* Ask a member of staff to share the book they’re reading for 1st 5 minutes of every staff meeting
* Secret Santa of a book you own / love
* Have ”Currently Reading” notices on doors
* Have a noticeboard with all members of staff (not just teachers) on it and their favourite book
* Have photos of all members of staff reading
* Ask staff to wear “I am currently reading badges”
* Ask pupils to interview staff about their favourite books, then create a display
* Have members of staff as reading champions
* Have a staff book club, reading children’s books

**Engaging parents**

* Ask parents to share recommendations for particular age groups / bedtime reading / their favourite books when they were a child
* Ask parents to share all the reading they do in a week (not just books)
* Invite parents in for author events – why not have one after school in winter round a bonfire with marshmallows?
* Have suppers and stories – invite parents and children in for pizza and stories – including food can be a good way to encourage parents to attend
* Have an evening of book related activities – the pupils can put together the programme and organise the event
* Encourage parents to use the Bookbug app
* Support parents with choosing bedtime stories
* Ask Scholastic / Waterstones to come in on parents’ night
* Have a parents’ lending library in the foyer

**Engaging the community**

* Ask pupils to interview local people about their favourite books. Compile into a booklet.
* Design a survey and find out the community’s top 10 books
* Ask your community to read one of three books over several months and display comments, book reviews, photos etc.
* Invite locals to send in videos about why they like reading (NB you could invite authors to do this too)

**Creating book groups**

* Parent – child groups
* Teacher – pupil groups
* P7 / S1 groups
* Un-book groups – discuss interesting newspaper articles or a blog or a cartoon strip or materials on a theme.
* Rocking Readers – each class / stage has a different day, from 1-1.30 where they have an opt-in reading time.

**Secondary specific ideas**

* Have different curricular areas display relevant fiction in their classroom / on departmental boards
* Gift every child in one year group the same book. Read the 1st couple of chapters in class then they finish it with a list of ideas how to respond and a deadline. Ideas could include bake a cake, write a review, a blog, make a video etc.
* Have a formal application process for literacy leaders who take on responsibility for world book day and book week Scotland.
* Rather than read for 1 period a week, read for 10 minutes at the start of every period.
* Have a cross curricular book week – one theme e.g. zombies, linked in to a book and looked at across different curricular areas

**Using your environment**

* Create outdoor spaces where children can read / have mobile book trolleys for the playground
* Have a dedicated reading area in your classroom with reviews, posters, bookmarks etc
* Each class takes it in turn to showcase an author and creates a display

**Celebrating Reading**

* Have a reading café once a term – any child who has engaged in reading (no matter how many books they’ve read), gets a free pass to come to a café, set up by teachers, where they can sit and have hot chocolate / read during class time
* Hold an author event – apply to the Scottish Book Trust for Live Literature funding
* Have reading dares integrated into the curriculum, displayed on walls, tweeted, on Facebook page. Pupils have 1 month to work on 1 or more. Golden dares are worth 40 points and 1 is done per month by the whole class. Lucky dip dares – class chooses a number, 1 to 20 and completes (10 points). Individual dares are worth 10 points – pupils can do several in a month.
* Have a balloon debate where everyone votes on which character should be thrown out of the balloon and which one saved
* Put different despicable characters on trial and work out which one is the worst
* Have a Burns Night Supper

**Book Week ideas**

* Instead of dressing up as a character, do a book swap – pupils bring in books they no longer read and every child can choose a free book to take home
* Watch a different Author’s Live event every day of the week: <http://scottishbooktrust.com/authorslive>
* Transform the school with a book related theme for the week – e.g. Hogwarts
* Turn your classroom doors into book jackets, created by the pupils in each class
* Hold a reading quiz
* 30 second sell – classes work to create a 30 second sell of a book. 1 representative from each class presents
* Get pupils to make a pledge during Book Week – it doesn’t have to be to read a book – it could be to read a short story every night, read a newspaper every day, read a different type of writing every day and keep a list