

Raising Attainment in Renfrewshire: An Approach to Improving Literacy



Book Banding: Information for Parents & Carers



Renfrewshire
Council

Book Banding

What is Book Banding?

Book Banding is an approach widely used across primary schools. Book Banding was developed to support teachers, alongside their professional knowledge, to select the right texts at the right time when teaching children to read by bringing together the knowledge and skills they are learning.

Book Banding is a way of organising reading books, across a wide range of published reading schemes, in order to teach text-reading skills. The term 'Book Bands' refers to colour-coded levels of challenge that ensure continuity and consistency across primaries and classes.

An Introduction to the Book Bands

Book Banding is used to support children at the early stages of reading. Book Banding is mostly used with primary 1 - 3 pupils but will end earlier or later for some.

What Are the Nationally Recognised Book Bands?	
Band 1	Pink
Band 2	Red
Band 3	Yellow
Band 4	Blue
Band 5	Green
Band 6	Orange
Band 7	Turquoise
Band 8	Purple
Band 9	Gold
Band 10	White

How Have these Bands Been Created?

Book Bands have been created to reflect that books vary in many dimensions. When Book Banding, the following aspects have been considered:

- amount of print on the page
- size of font used and the spacing between words
- range and familiarity of vocabulary
- extent to which the language follows spoken or literary conventions
- extent of repetition in various forms including vocabulary, story structure etc
- extent to which illustrations support the text
- variety and complexity of sentence structure
- predictability of the story line
- length and complexity of the story or book
- formality of language and layout used
- extent to which the text genre is familiar to children

What are the Benefits of Book Banding?

Book Banding enables schools to:

- ensure the correct text level for all pupils
- identify potential 'gaps' within existing resources
- match reading scheme books with a selection of story books
- match resources across all major published reading schemes ensuring that children experience a variety of texts at the same level
- use running records to ensure that pupils are progressing with the correct level of support and challenge
- ensure that pupil learning is led by the text level, not the suggested level of a publisher

If you have any questions regarding Book Banding or wish further information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school



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