George White Junior School Reading for Pleasure Rationale

At George White Junior School, we believe it is vital that children have time to read a variety of books so they can enjoy reading. Reading for pleasure. We don't want children to do this to tick off an objective, or to pass a test, we want children to read for pleasure so that they develop a love of books and to help spark their amazing imaginations!

How do we Support Reading for Pleasure at George White Junior School?

Reading Aloud

Reading aloud is one of the most important things our teachers do and is a frequent and regular part of each school day. Reading aloud enables children to experience and enjoy stories they may not otherwise meet. At George White we make it a priority and ensure everyone understands the importance of it. Reading aloud is a non-negotiable that is not taken away by finishing off an activity or tidying up the classroom for the end of the day. Time is set aside for it at 3pm each day. By reading chosen books aloud, teachers help classes to become communities of readers – ensuring that they can share in experiences of a wide repertoire of books they enjoy.

Dedicated Reading Areas

Each classroom has a dedicated reading corner. These corners are designed to display a range of books under the categories of *Very Short Reads, Short Reads, Long Reads, Poetry, Magazines and Comics.* Each reading corner has up to 50 books in it which the children can choose to read at their leisure and share their opinions on when we discuss our reading during our school library visits. Reading corners are a safe and comfortable space to allow children's minds to get into a book. They also serve as a constant reminder for the children to pick up a book and start reading. Reading corners with books from a variety of genres and covering a range of potential areas of interest increase pupils' English-related skills and promote phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension and writing. These, alongside our spacious school library, are accessible, welcoming places that are stocked with good-quality, appropriate books.

Inspiring Reading

Books and information about books are displayed attractively in each classroom through both English and VIPERS displays. There are also inspiring and beautiful displays in our school library. We have our interactive 'What are we reading?' displays in every classroom, where each child is able to share which book they are currently reading with their peers. This leads to discussion in classes and during library time around books the children are currently enjoying. At George White, we know there are books which lend themselves to being talked about, thought through, returned to and which are engaging for children for a variety of reasons. Powerful stories engage children, stir ideas and feelings and excited the reader's interest and imagination.

Celebrating Reading

We celebrate reading by having a 'Reader of the Week' in each class. This child is chosen for their passion around reading, their achievement around reading, or their positive attitude towards a book or series of books. This chosen child receives a certificate and 'Reading Star!' pencil.

Every child has a bookmark where they record their completed books and give it a star rating. On the back of this bookmark, children collect stickers that they receive from their teacher for achievements in reading.

We also organise visits with the Millenium Library in the city for each year group, every year. During this visit, children are able to sign up for a library card if they do not already have one.

Where possible, we have children's authors visit the school to talk about their books and inspiration for writing.

Once a half term we invite parents and carers in to share a book with their child during registration time. It is lovely to see so many children enjoying books with their loved ones.

On days such as World Book Day, we set aside the timetable in the afternoon and really celebrate books. We enjoy dressing up as our favourite characters too! Such events give children a real reason for understanding characters, expressing preferences, talking about books they have enjoyed and hearing about books from their peers. And perhaps, most importantly, it enables them to see the power of a shared love of reading.