

VIRTUAL
SCHOOL



Designated Teachers










Reading for children
we look after



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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Why focus on reading?

Each year, just like all schools across the country we analyse the data created by the children we look after. We take into account the results obtained from SATs, phonics, EYFS and GCSEs. Across the Authority all results for the children we look after was very positive.

Reading is a focus for the Virtual School. If the child has a target to improve their reading, the virtual school can provide advice and information on ways to use the PP+ funding. Overall, for all of the children we look after we want to ensure they all have a love of reading and will carry this love of reading with them wherever life takes them.

Love of Reading - School Pilot:

Michelle Hart, our Secondary PEP lead, has recently been working with Lynn and Lisa at De La Salle High School who are undertaking a mini pilot with a group of students, the majority of whom are looked after and work with pastoral support. The pilot has two main interventions:

- a reading trip to the 'Bookstop' in St Helens town centre.
- reading transition work with St Therasas Primary school.



Reading trip to the BookStop in St Helens town centre.



THE BOOK STOP

De La Salle School students visited the BookStop in St Helens to look around the shop and to choose books that were of interest to them, for them to take home, read, and keep.

The manager of the shop Nik gave the students a tour of the shop and explained the future development of the shop including the event space upstairs.

Nik also provided a goody bag with some lovely treats which the students enjoyed. They also visited the 'Two Brothers' café inside the bookshop where they chose a hot or cold drink to enjoy whilst they started to read their new books.

The school were invoiced for the cost of the books and the drinks, and this was paid from PP+ and PP funding. The approximate cost including the books, transport (school minibus) and drinks was £50 of PP+ funds per student which was allocated on their Autumn term PEP through the targets section.

The book shop is located on Bridge Street, St Helens, WA10 1NN. The contact details for the manager Nik: Nik Lowe: 01744 902768 email: nik@thebookstop.org Website: www.thebookstop.org

"A charitable community benefit society established to open an independent bookshop in the heart of St Helens offering something for everyone."

Reading transition work Primary / Secondary

The students from De La Salle School who have been selected from the group of students that receive enhanced pastoral support (PP and CLA) are attending one of the local feeder primary schools, St Theresas to read with the children.

The sessions start with one of the Secondary School students reading a story to the whole group. This rotates each week to enable the students to take the turn of being the lead reader. Then the students take their reading 'buddy' (1-1) to read their book which has been provided by the class teacher at the appropriate level (colour) for each child. At the end of the session, they play a whole group game.

There are so many positives to this project:

- Promoting a love of reading with both children in Secondary and in Primary.
- Aiding transition to High School – It makes the gap between the two settings not seem as vast and demonstrates how approachable the high school students are.
- Making relationships and promoting social skills with children of various ages, encouraging communication and promoting speaking and listening skills.
- Boosting the confidence of the Secondary pupils that they are being entrusted with the 'teaching' of reading' and 'supporting' another child with their reading journey.
- 1-1 readers for Primary Schools, to encourage children reading allowed and practicing their reading strategies.





Measuring Outcomes:

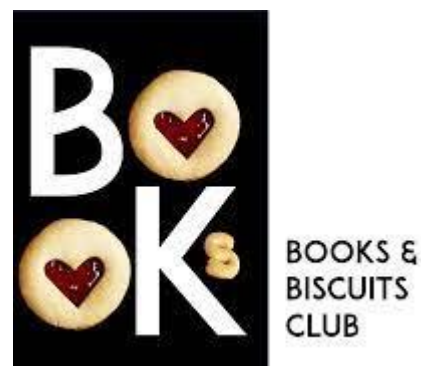
To test the effectiveness of the interventions at De La Salle, results are being generated through standardised tests which will be carried out to test the children's current reading age and compare results. This will be carried out 3 times a year at specific points. A Reading age letter is then attached and included in the PEP as evidence of the intervention. Students will then get a letter home stating what their reading score was and the comparison to their chronological age.

Pupil voice is also being collected to understand more about how this has impacted the students and their views about reading.

Reading clubs and interventions:

Book & Biscuits Clubs

Hope Academy have been running a book and biscuits club for their students in the library. The group all gather each week and enjoy reading whilst enjoying a biscuit and drink. They discuss their books, share thoughts and recommendations for books for each other to read. It is very popular – who doesn't love a book and a biscuit?!



We would like to hear about any reading interventions/ clubs/ trips that you deliver at your school, this will enable us to share good practice and provide ideas to other DT's.

In School Tutoring:

Online tutoring options have a lot to offer with regards to evidence based learning and money to spend optimum resources. However, it is often hard to replace the personalised learning that a member of staff who knows the child and has worked with them on a consistent basis can offer.

A level of trust and safety has already been established between a child with a specific need and a member of staff they are familiar with. A member of staff at your own school/setting may have years of experience working with the nominated child. A school learning assistant or class teacher will often have the unique experience with how to engage the child based on their specific needs, encourage with specific strategies and have the expertise to understand their often complex and individual needs. This is something that online tutoring cannot offer.

PEP money can be spent on a trusted member of staff to work with a child or small group of children in e.g.: a reading booster class after school, a





lunchtime reading book club, a breakfast reading club 1-1, to carry out pre learning tasks before the school day. |

Online Tutoring and interactive schemes:

As with the reading subscriptions, the online tutoring opportunities for reading are endless. Here are some possibilities to spend PP+ money on:



Online or in person tutoring:

KipMcGrath™ EDUCATIONCENTRES



A range of providers are available that cover the St Helens area and will dedicate specific sessions to reading at various ages and stages. They offer online and in-person tuition. Prices vary dependent on the provider selected and the number of sessions booked.

Resources/ Book schemes:



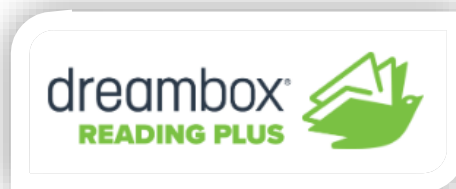
Letterbox: Helping children who are looked after, previously looked after, on the edge of care and other vulnerable groups, with reading and numeracy. Across the UK, children are enrolled for the Letterbox Club by local authorities, schools and other settings. Each child receives their own colourful parcel of books, maths games, stationery and other high-quality materials once every month for six months, usually from May to October. Priced at £145 per child, including VAT.

For many children, it's the first time they have had a letter or a parcel through the post and for some it's the first time they have had books of their own.

Registration for Letterbox Club 2023 has now closed. Look out for more information on registrations for 2024 coming soon. Please contact the team for more information by emailing letterbox@booktrust.org.uk or calling 020 7801 8805.

This could be delivered to the school rather than the home to avoid any GDPR issues if necessary

Reading Plus: Reading Plus provides an integrated reading intervention program for all learners. The program includes an adaptive assessment, personalized instruction and practice, and easily accessible resources that enable teachers to meet the needs of every student.





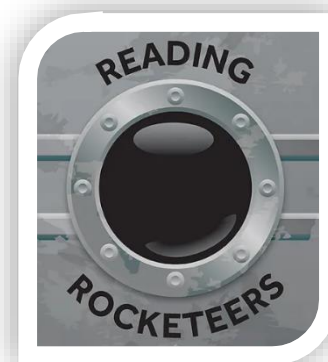
Literacy Gold: Evidence Based Interventions for Children Aged 6-14. Reading & Spelling Programs. Why do some children struggle to read? Some children can't see the letters and words on the page clearly, and they can't hear the individual sounds in words. This is why phonics by itself doesn't work for some children.

Literacy Gold

Pupils who skip words or lines, reverse letters, or can't remember what they've read, may have a vision problem caused by weak eye muscles. Their eyes don't focus on the same letter, so their brain receives two different images when they read.

Literacy Gold's Reading Bundle addresses both these issues using fun games. Engaging Eyes, exercises the eye muscles, helping them work together and reduces eye movements. Fluency Builder develops auditory skills so they can hear the sounds in words. Once children can both see the letters and sound out the words, reading improves dramatically.

Reading Rocketeers: Designed to boost levels of attainment for those who may still be working towards expected reading standards, each book encourages learners to both understand and apply core reading skills. Reading Rocketeers has been written for those readers who have secured their ability to decode but still lack confidence in their reading ability and require support in order to strengthen and develop core reading skills. Designed as a Reading Intervention tool for teaching those who struggle with comprehension, this resource is easily adaptable to help learners secure expected levels of reading attainment by the end of KS1 or to use with weaker readers in KS2.

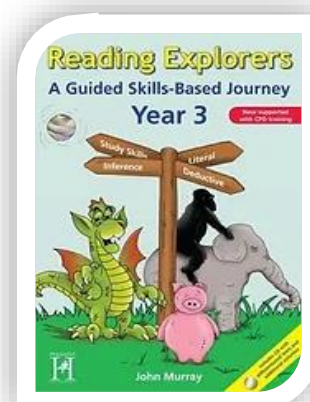


This is achieved by enabling learners to focus upon three key elements of reading comprehension:

- The explicit teaching and learning of specific higher order reading skills including deductive and inferential reasoning.
- Creating opportunities for wider understanding of contextualised language in order to ensure concrete understanding of what has been read and create links both within the text and beyond.
- Developing meaningful fluency that supports and enhances deeper understanding of the text.

Reading Explorers: A guided skills programme which aims to develop key reading & study skills.

This acclaimed series provides teachers with a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, which encourages children to access, interpret and understand what they are reading. It promotes the child's knowledge and understanding of authorial intent and gives the reader the chance to speculate on the tone and purpose of each text, as well as to consider its wider themes and audience.



Online Subscriptions:




Online Subscriptions:

Online reading and writing subscriptions:

The following programs have been narrowed down from a wealth of amazing online content that can come at a variety of costs and cater for all reading abilities.

Program (hyperlinked)	Age	Description	Cost
 Night Zookeeper	Primary	Fantastically Fun Learning Night Zookeeper is a children's brand on a mission to make learning fantastically fun and help kids unlock their creativity. Our reading & writing program has helped over 1 million children aged 6-12 to develop their reading, writing, and creative thinking skills.	£4.17 per month
 Teach your monster to read	Infants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers everything from letters and sounds to reading full sentences. Designed in collaboration with leading academics. Complements all synthetic phonics programmes used in schools. Computer version is 100% free. 	free online, minimal cost of app £2.99
 Teach your monster to read for fun	Juniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gets children reading more and boosts their confidence. A magical village of quests, reading and books. Over 70 amazing books to collect as rewards for completing fun jobs. Designed in collaboration with leading academics. 	free online, minimal cost of app £2.99
 Reading Eggs	Primary	Reading Eggs makes learning to read interesting and engaging for kids, with great online reading games and activities. And it really works! Children love the games, songs, golden eggs and other rewards which, along with feeling proud of their reading, really motivate children to keep exploring and learning.	£6.99 per month
 Reading Eggspress	age 4 - 16	Reading Eggspress makes reading real books, improving spelling skills and building reading comprehension highly engaging for kids aged 7–13. The online reading programme is packed with hundreds of interactive reading activities, online children's books and literacy games. And it really works!	£6.99 per month
 Reading Eggs Junior	Age 2- 4	Launch your toddler on the path to reading success. That is what Reading Eggs Junior is all about! With funny animation, toddler games and preschool activities, your child will be entertained as they learn. A huge library of read-aloud books, alphabet games, songs and phonemic awareness activities keep children learning about words, sounds and letters. We guarantee your child will love Reading Eggs Junior, and you will love to see them learning!	£6.99 per month
 Fast phonics	age 5 - 10	Fast Phonics is an online synthetic phonics program that helps children become strong readers. Based on solid scientific research, Fast Phonics uses the proven power of systematic phonics instruction to boost reading skills fast! The program includes 20 fun filled levels where children learn key phonics skills including letter sound recognition, blending and spelling. Each level is a Mountain Peak covering one set of letters with more than 20 exciting activities.	£6.99 per month
 Reading Solutions	All ages	Want to help pupils develop a long-lasting love of reading? We're here to help. Reading Solutions UK is the home of Reading Plus – the online reading development programme that engages pupils and makes it easy to evidence impact. improve reading speed and fluency, increase vocabulary – and accelerate reading comprehension.	dependent



 Reading Plus	Juniors	The screening report on reading plus groups pupils by instructional needs to determine which pupils need comprehension, vocabulary, and silent reading rate development support with treading Plus. Teachers can easily see which pupils will likely finish and pass the SATs paper and which students need additional support. Reading plus adapts to individuals' needs and provides intervention resources for teachers to use.	dependent
 Literacy Shed +	Primary	We have created a range of resources to help teachers with their planning. Fully resourced unit plans based on Literacy Shed films, Non-Fiction reading revision resources, 'VIPERS' reading resources, Classic Text VIPERS comprehensions, Novel study guides for teachers and student task booklets, Resources to aid the scaffolding of writing through DADWAVERS.	dependent
 Epic	Primary 12 and under	Boost confidence with real books students love. access to thousands of high-quality books, loved by millions of kids grade 6 and under. Independent reading for all ages & grades. Reach every student with tons of grade-specific, high-interest topics across languages and genres.	dependent
 Story Online	All ages	The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's Daytime Emmy®-nominated and award-winning children's literacy website, Storyline Online®, streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations. Readers include Oprah Winfrey, Chris Pine, Rosario Dawson, Viola Davis, Terry Crews, Connie Britton, John Lithgow, Jennifer Garner, Betty White and dozens more. Reading aloud to children has been shown to improve reading, writing and communication skills, logical thinking and concentration, and general academic aptitude, as well as inspire a lifelong love of reading.	dependent
 Story Place	preschool and nursery / Rec	Welcome to StoryPlace! Our Pre-school Library is full of great activities for you to explore. Choose a theme below to start the fun!	dependent
 Vooks	All ages	Vooks is an entire library of storybooks brought to life with beautiful animation, read-aloud narration, engaging music and sound, and read-along text. We're educational, safe, and ad-free screen time that inspires a lifelong love of reading!	free for teachers
 Accelerated reader	Primary	With Accelerated Reader, a student reads a book, takes an online quiz, and gets immediate feedback. Students respond to regular feedback and are motivated to make progress with their reading skills. Together with Star Reading and myON by Renaissance, it forms a complete reading practice and assessment solution for students of all ages and abilities.	dependent

All PP+ expenditure must be specific to the needs of the child and linked to aspirational targets to engage and raise attainment. This can include:

- 1:1 support or small group intervention. This should be focused on areas of weakness or gaps in learning with clear outcomes and its impact evaluated.
- 1:1 intervention to re-engage a disaffected learner.
- short term 1:1 tutoring for a child on a bespoke timetable.
- specialist software or equipment beyond that normally provided by the school.

An online subscription to a reading program would ensure that children who need support, and are working below age related expectation, can be supported and children who are working at greater depth can be pushed from the level they are currently working at and continue to excel.

The reading subscriptions listed above are possible suggestions, and by no means the only options available. The Virtual School are providing this list to demonstrate some of the many subscriptions available, but it is up to you as a Designated Teacher to research the subscription that would suit your children and your school.



Magazine Subscriptions:

Possible subscriptions for specific interests:





With colourful artwork and photos, magazines bring an array of content to life for young readers. Magazine pieces offer short text and can be used for instruction in many literacy skill areas. Students are exposed to a variety of texts that encourage them to read, listen, learn and interact with engaging content.

As adults, most of the reading we do isn't actually from books. We read a myriad of things in our environments, homes and workplaces all day long. From emails, signs and catalogues to web articles, instructions and more, we are reading language used in many different ways throughout the day.






Children need to develop fluency reading these different styles of writing to be successful confident readers and writers as adults. Magazines for children and teens are a great way to encourage them to read a variety of styles of writing. Many contain nonfiction informational articles as well as creative fiction and even poetry.

Reading nonfiction articles in magazines even helps boost analytical skills and critical thinking abilities. It also exposes children to some of the nuances of how-to-how language is used differently in informational texts as opposed to creative works. Reading a variety of styles will help youth become stronger more confident readers and build a firm foundation for writing throughout their lives.

There are a vast range of magazines subscriptions available, and they can be purchased through Pupil Premium Plus funding to specifically link to children and teenagers' specific interests and engage even the most reluctant readers. Here are some of the possibilities available online:

Magazine	Age	Description	Cost (annual)
	8 – 14 years	The Week an informative magazine for children aged 8 to 14 filled with current affairs and interesting stories. Bursting with engaging writing, this is a magazine for curious minds hoping to make sense of the world around them. With a The Week Junior magazine subscription your kids can stay up-to-date with topics ranging from science, animals, news, geography and nature.	52 issues £135.99
	Juniors +	FourFourTwo is the ultimate magazine for footy lovers of all ages. Released monthly, this popular title is packed full of the latest football news, in-depth player profiles, fixture details and eye-opening articles that all combine to provide proper football fans with a comprehensive guide to the beautiful game.	13 issues £52.99



	8 - 12 years	110% Gaming magazine subscription is the perfect monthly read for them. Covering everything from the latest releases, top YouTubers, gaming news and epic LOLs, 110% Gaming is the only magazine they need to be a hardcore gaming fan. Bursting with fun, imagination and colour, this will keep your recipient engrossed for hours.	12 issues £70
	All ages	A Doctor Who Magazine subscription is the official go-to for exclusive information about the long-running, hugely successful BBC TV drama series. The Doctor Who Magazine team work closely with the makers of the show to bring you interviews with past and present Doctors, as well as behind-the-scenes secrets from all eras of the show.	13 issues £110
	All ages	A Beano magazine subscription transports you and your children into the wonderful world of iconic characters that have been adored by Brits for almost a century. The Bash Street Kids, Rodger the Dodger, and Minnie the Minx happily reside inside the pages of Beano , with the biggest name of all - Dennis the Menace - still ruling the roost, and causing chaos with his faithful sidekick Gnasher. Crammed full of carnage, comedy, quizzes, competitions and colourful imagery	50 issues £132
	7-14 years	What On Earth! has something to intrigue and inspire kids, teens, parents and grandparents alike. Focused on providing fun for all the family, each edition is sure to enhance the interests of every type of child and is always at hand to broaden horizons and develop personalities further.	10 issues £56.39
	13 +	Teen Breathe magazine helps promote wellbeing as a priority for teens. The first magazine of its kind, Teen Breathe strives for a happier, healthier and more fulfilled teenage life. Covering a wide range of topics, you'll read about socialising, sports, crafts, mindfulness, and much more with every issue. Encouraging teens to go after their dreams, live their lives and have an open mind,	6 issues £29.94

Other reading initiatives:

As with all the guidance we offer, we are more than open to hear from Designated Teachers and support staff with ideas and suggestions for any possible reading initiatives that could be obtained using pupil premium plus funding which can be shared across the LA as examples of good practice.

We are all working together as a team for the children we look after, and we know that you are the most knowledgeable person to speak to about your child(ren). Therefore, it is always great to hear about and share good practice going on in your schools.

Please note: any publications, resources or online subscriptions recorded in this booklet are not endorsed or validated by St. Helens Virtual School. This is a sample of what is available and will be added to in the future. We expect Designated Teachers to use the knowledge of the child to select and approve suitable resources.



We can't wait to hear your ideas!

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