

Enjoying Reading

Secondary school booklet



New solutions to help every
young person love reading
www.enjoyingreading.org.uk

Imagine the difference it would make if every young person loved to read

As a partner in Enjoying Reading, the National Literacy Trust developed this advocacy booklet by bringing together practitioners for a conference in November 2007.

Experts were there from primary and secondary schools, public libraries, school library services, local authorities and voluntary organisations. They all share a belief in the power of reading to transform lives and the important role that an effective partnership between the school, school library, school library service and public library has in supporting young people's reader development.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a great day and to this toolkit.

Enjoying Reading is led by The Reading Agency and funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Other partners are the National Literacy Trust, the School Library Association, the Society of Chief Librarians, the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council.

Wider contributors include the National Primary and Secondary Strategies, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Arts Council England, Creative Partnerships, and the United Kingdom Literacy Association.

**LIBRARIES
AND
SCHOOLS**



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“Finding ways to engage pupils in reading may be one of the most effective ways to leverage social change.”

Reading for Change, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2002

This research shows how important reading for pleasure is for young people to fulfill their life chances. Yet young people in England read relatively little compared to many of their international counterparts, according to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study published in 2007.

This booklet suggests new approaches for schools to help every young person love reading. It is part of Enjoying Reading, a DCSF-funded initiative, which aims to promote more effective partnership working between schools, school libraries, public libraries and school library services.

“Children’s enjoyment of reading is critical to their life chances, but schools alone can’t crack this. DCSF believes more joined up working between schools and libraries can make a big difference and is funding the Enjoying Reading initiative to provide inspiration, ideas and practical support. The National Year of Reading is the perfect time to start to strengthen this alliance.”

Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools and Learners



The time is right. The 2008 National Year of Reading (NYR) is an important opportunity. Libraries and schools working together can be a powerful force for change. This new resource shows how the partnership can work in practice and will be a major resource for teachers to use during the NYR.

This emphasis on partnership working supports initiatives that aim to give young people the chance to take part in cultural activities and develop their creative skills, such as the 'Find Your Talent' programme, announced in February 2008 by the DCSF and the DCMS.

Over the next three years the 'Find Your Talent' programme will pilot five hours a week of quality arts and cultural activities for children and young people, in and out of school. This will include opportunities to engage with library and archive services, produce creative writing, take part in reading groups, and listen to authors talk about their work.

To access a wider range of Enjoying Reading support materials, resources and case studies, visit www.enjoyingreading.org.uk

Reader motivation and development



As you are aware, throughout secondary school, the National Curriculum states that students need to be given opportunities to develop independence in reading, encouraging them to become lifelong, discerning readers. This includes discussing and sharing their personal reading interests and preferences.

Public libraries, school library services and school libraries are in a position to help schools provide these opportunities via:

- Free, safe reading spaces in and out of school
- Creative activities with and in school – linking reading to students’ personal interests in exciting ways

- A wide range of reading materials to support students’ individual learning needs and interests
- Staff expertise and book knowledge to support teachers and to motivate young people to read more frequently and more widely

The public library is unique as it offers a reading space that is free, different from home or school and open out of school hours. Libraries are now offering young people exciting and creative reading activities and promoting the reading interests of all young people, for example through manga projects, graphic novel collections and teenage reading groups.

Summer Reading Challenge

“School libraries need to see themselves as an important partner in the Summer Reading Challenge. Schools and public libraries are working to help our children become enthusiastic readers. It makes sense to work together in pursuit of this joint aim.”

Assistant librarian, Capital City Academy, London Borough of Brent

The Summer Reading Challenge is a useful transition activity which can be developed in Year 6 and followed up in Year 7. The challenge runs right across the public library network, and 650,000 children (four to 12-year-olds) take part every year. Children are challenged to read six books over the summer holidays, with lots of collectable incentives. Libraries also run creative events as part of the challenge.

By working with feeder primary schools and the library service, secondary schools can help sustain students' reading levels and enthusiasm in the holiday period, a time when their reading ability often dips.

This can lead to an increase in the number of young people participating in the Summer Reading Challenge, an opportunity to celebrate their success and also share information about levels of participation.

As part of the Enjoying Reading initiative, The Reading Agency has produced Summer Reading Challenge materials for secondary schools. Visit www.enjoyingreading.org.uk

Contact your local library services for more information about the Summer Reading Challenge.

“The lunchtime Book Café has successfully resulted in raising students’ motivation and enthusiasm for reading. It is also helping to raise standards in literacy and improving confidence.”

HMI, May 2006 – Ellis Guilford School and Sports College, Nottingham.

HeadSpace is part of Fulfilling their Potential, a national libraries programme which aims to transform public library services for 11 to 19-year-olds.

HeadSpace has developed a series of innovative spaces across the country in partnership with young people and public libraries. It provides a laid-back environment where young people can read, listen, surf and enjoy a drink and snack. HeadSpaces could also be set up in a school, or alternatively, schools could set up their own book café in the school library.

For more information visit www.theirreadingfutures.org.uk/bestPractice/headspace



Supporting teachers in delivering the curriculum



School libraries, school library services and public libraries can support the secondary curriculum in imaginative ways and with tailored resources. They can be particularly useful partners for supporting local studies projects and for developing students' information literacy skills.

School libraries, school library services and public libraries support schools through offering:

- Class sessions, including specialist information literacy sessions
- A wide range of resources, tailored to reading/learning needs
- Specialist support for teachers and students
- Reading spaces during and outside of school hours

School libraries and most public libraries also offer study support and homework clubs, including access to ICT facilities.

Continuing Professional Development opportunities

UKLA's 'Teachers as Readers in the 21st Century' report concluded that "there is room for development in finding ways to extend the scope and range of teachers' knowledge of children's literature". It also advocated the public library partnership as a key route for teachers to achieve this.

This report looked at primary teachers' knowledge of children's literature. However, we know that teachers, especially teachers of subjects other than English, need development in this area in secondary schools as well.

Public library, school library service staff and school librarians have extensive knowledge of literature for young people and love to enthuse about it.

Teachers are time-poor and libraries can help with subject area booklists, ready-made ideas, reader development activities and resources. They can give teachers more confidence in using a wider variety of texts in the classroom. Schools might like to include a CPD slot for the librarian during their INSET days or staff briefings.



Following a visit from Birmingham school library service:

"There were loads of really exciting sounding books I'd love to read and recommend to kids. The speaker was really passionate and enthusiastic about the books that she was talking about which was really infectious."

Teacher, Four Dwellings High School, Birmingham

School offer

1 Libraries help teachers boost young people's love of reading: each bit of the library system helps in different ways

Reader motivation and development

Public library:

- Free, safe reading space – not home, not school
- Under-five's preparation for school
- Inspiring, wide range of reading materials
- Creative activities with and in school eg Chatterbooks reading groups
- Positive creative activities in the library eg Summer Reading Challenge
- Staff expertise to support stimulating reading activities
- Visits from a public librarian

Schools library service:

- Specialist support for teachers and students
- Reading resources tailored to reading and learning needs

School library:

- Structured creative reading activities
- Stimulating reading space in the school

Continuing professional development for teachers

Public library:

- Visits to school from a librarian
- Staff expertise, particularly book knowledge

Schools library service:

- Specialist advice and resources for teachers, school librarians and students

School library:

- Library staff support for teachers, including books and curriculum support

Curriculum support

Public library:

- Class visits to the public library, which may include information literacy sessions or creative activities
- Free choice of a wide range of resources
- Study support and homework clubs

Schools library service:

- Specialist curriculum support for teachers, school librarians and students
- Resources tailored to reading and learning needs

School library:

- Specialist information literacy work
- Resources geared to reading and learning needs
- Learning space and study support during, and sometimes beyond, school hours

Community partnerships and extended services

Public library:

- Free, inspiring reading space
- Wide range of books and other materials
- Reading as a way into citizenship and positive activities
- Creative activities in the library

School library:

- Activities to support extended services

Family involvement

Public library:

- Parenting and adult learning support
- Family friendly activities in the public library
- Reading resources on parenting
- Modelling reading behaviours

School library:

- Learning support for families

School offer

2 When schools and libraries join up their support for young people's reading effectively

Young people will:

- Enjoy reading:
 - more widely and deeply
 - with motivation and more positive attitudes
 - and sharing social experiences
- Be able to access inspiring reading opportunities at any time during the year
- Exercise more self direction and choice in their reading progress, with support from adults
- Take part in family reading activities
- Engage with other readers in the community

Schools will:

- Create an environment leading to:
 - more confident and independent readers
 - more independent reading
 - readers more receptive to learning
- Improve what the extended school can offer
- Encourage more family involvement and support

- Develop a wider evidence bank of students' reading progress – helping to support new assessment requirements
- Increase teachers' knowledge of reading materials and access more practical tools to use with students
- Access inspiring opportunities to work with authors and illustrators
- Improve writing and self expression

Local authorities will:

- Be helped to meet relevant national indicators
- Provide safe space, resources, expertise and positive activities through libraries, which help young people to enjoy and achieve
- Benefit from positive activities provided for young people in libraries; things to do and places to go within and outside school hours
- Support reading as a life skill, which underpins literacy targets

3 The unique benefits of using public libraries

Public libraries help young people to:

- Develop their confidence and motivation, seeing themselves as readers outside school
- Read more widely and independently
- Have a place to continue reading in school holidays
- Access study support out of school hours
- Develop softer skills through positive reading based activities and community engagement
- Have a safe space to go in local communities
- Enjoy reading through shared family access and support for books and reading

Building effective community partnerships

“The Staffordshire Young Teenage Fiction Book Award enables youngsters to develop key and basic skills, it provides learning opportunities that are different to the national curriculum and it builds upon learning experiences that are offered through statutory schooling.”

Secondary English consultant, Staffordshire LA

The personalised learning agenda emphasises the importance of developing community partnerships to give students extra support for study.

Furthermore, the Extended Services Agenda sets out a core offer of services that all children and young people should be able to access through schools by 2010. This includes providing access to a range of community activities.

There are a variety of ways in which a school could develop a community partnership with their school library service and public library. Young people will increase their confidence and contribute to their community through positive activities.

Proven partnership projects include:

Student-led local book awards –

“This is an extremely successful collaborative project, enabling secondary and primary schools, together with the public library service, to work together to promote positive attitudes towards reading and library use right across the Borough. The publicity generated as a result of the many Book Award events has raised the profile of reading tremendously within our school and created a real sense of excitement around books.”

Headteacher, Don Valley High School, Doncaster

Young Cultural Creators –

an innovative and exciting approach to reader and writer development for young people, led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

The project enables young people to explore creativity with writers and illustrators, stimulated by working in a museum, archive, or gallery, and their local library. For more information visit www.youngculturalcreators.com

Creative Partnerships –

the Government’s flagship creative learning programme run by Arts Council England. For more information visit www.creative-partnerships.com

Opportunities for students to get involved in focus groups to influence the development of projects

“We’ll be there in the library for when a child or teenager comes in – we will be talking to them about books and suggesting books that we think they will really like. HeadSpace is going to make a difference.”

Volunteer at HeadSpace Bolton

“There are lots of great things that come with working for the Book Pusher project. You get to meet new people, see new places and have your voice heard. Being a Book Pusher has helped me to develop many skills that may help in future life such as confidence, team working and presentation skills. The project has helped me to try new things and helped me to enjoy the pleasures of reading and talking about books to others who may not have previously considered them a worthwhile hobby.”

**Derbyshire Libraries
Book Pusher (age 15)**

Visit www.lovelibraries.co.uk/lovelibrariesaward/derbyshire_libraries.php for more information about the Derbyshire Book Pushers.

Family involvement



Evidence shows that when parents encourage their children to read for pleasure and take them to the library, they help them develop stronger literacy and communication skills.

A strong partnership between the school, school library, school library service and public library can help schools fulfill the core offer of the Extended Services Agenda relating to 'parenting and family support' and 'community access to facilities including adult and family learning'.

Public libraries have a great range of free resources and activities for all family members. Students may prefer to participate in activities with their peers, rather than family members.

However, schools are in a good position to signpost parents towards the library services and resources that offer opportunities for adult learners to improve their own skills.

To raise awareness of the range of activities on offer, schools could invite the school librarian, school library service and public librarian to parents' evenings or open days at the school. They could also consider inviting librarians to family learning meetings to plan collaborative approaches to promoting family reading. See opposite for some tried-and-tested ideas to encourage family reading.

When parents encourage their children to read for pleasure and take them to the library, they help them develop stronger literacy and communication skills.

- Arrange a special induction trip for parents who have never been to the local library.
- Make sure that school staff are aware of the range of events and resources that the library offers so that they are in a position to offer suggestions to parents. Visit www.quickreads.org.uk
- Talk to your public library or school library service about borrowing boxes of books suitable for parents as well as students. Many libraries take part in The Vital Link programme which supports adults who want to improve their literacy skills. Visit www.vitallink.org.uk for more information.
- Link up with a local football/rugby/cricket club and the library to run a dads and lads workshop linked to families' sporting interests.

Barriers and solutions

Teachers and library staff have helped us to identify common questions and barriers and suggested answers and solutions:

How can our school benefit from the local library service without over burdening our teachers with paperwork?

School library services and many public libraries have outreach workers so the librarian can come to the school and support/run events. Contact your local children's librarian or school library service to see if they are able to deliver this kind of service.

Our nearest library is too far away to access.

If the static library is several miles away, the library service may have mobile library services in place. Contact your local library service to make enquiries. Alternatively, enquire as to whether your local children's/youth librarian can come to the school instead.

Can the public library/school library service really help us raise standards?

Research and anecdotal evidence tells us that children and young people who enjoy reading, do it more often, and the more they read, the better they become at doing it. Developing a whole-school reading culture and encouraging young people to develop a love of reading is one of the most significant things we can do to raise achievement and standards in schools. Visit www.readingconnects.org.uk for a wealth of practical ideas and resources. Libraries and schools both have a common aim of promoting reading and helping young people develop their confidence. By working together, resources can be combined and results can be so much better.

We don't have the budget to buy into any more projects at the moment.

Public libraries tap into different funding streams from schools and don't always need large amounts of funding to get exciting things going. Often a small amount of money can go a very long way and have significant benefits. Alternatively, there are also funding grants which encourage community partnerships that you may be eligible to bid for. These are detailed on the Reading Connects website: www.literacytrust.org.uk/readingconnects/fundingindex.html

Our students aren't interested in going to the public library.

Students may not have been in a library for a while and so may not realise how much they are changing. Libraries are becoming dynamic spaces offering opportunities for young people's involvement as volunteers, book buyers and participants in creative activities.



For young people to develop a love of reading they need to see peers and adults modelling positive reading behaviour. Peer and community role models have lots of potential to motivate young people. If you're concerned about getting the boys on board, the National Literacy Trust initiative Reading Champions works to involve men and boys in promoting reading. Schools could consider setting up a community Reading Champions scheme in collaboration with the library services to draw upon the power of local reading role models. For more information visit www.readingchampions.org.uk

What next?

We hope that this booklet has inspired you to develop or strengthen a partnership with your local library service.

The time is right. Your next steps may be to:

- contact the children's/youth librarian for your local library or your school library service to explore possible opportunities
- build a whole-school reading community, using the school library area as a whole-school resource
- visit www.enjoyingreading.org.uk for more information and case studies

And, since 2008 is the National Year of Reading, each local authority has an NYR coordinator. Why not make links with your local coordinator? Visit www.yearofreading.org.uk



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read
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National
Literacy
Trust



department for
children, schools and families