
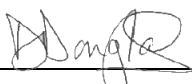




## ST MARYS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### *Reading for Pleasure*

Approved by <sup>1</sup>	
Name and address of school	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Workington
Chair of Governors	Mr Marc Featherstone
Signed:	
Name:	Danielle Douglas
Position:	Headteacher
Signed:	
Date of ratification:	June 2025
Review date <sup>2</sup> :	June 2026

## St. Marys Catholic Primary School

### Reading for Pleasure

#### Mission Statement

##### WHY WE ARE HERE:

Jesus told us to love God  
and love one another.

We do this by showing respect  
and by caring for each other.

We want all of us to do our best  
at all times and

take pride in ourselves because each of us is special to God.

At St Marys Catholic Primary School, we foster a love for reading and recognise the importance of promoting reading for pleasure: reading is at the core of all childrens education. Therefore, we ensure reading is at the heart of our curriculum and expose children to a wide range of quality texts, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. This furthers their fluency and deepens their knowledge about the wider world: as stated in the 'Reading for Pleasure Framework' (2023), books give children a window into other peoples worlds. It is our intention to create lifelong readers to benefit children educationally but also to support their personal, social and emotional development.

#### Intent

Our intent is to foster a love for reading for all children at St Marys by exposing them to rich and varied texts to keep our pupils engaged and motivated. We want to ensure reading is fun and accessible for all of our children and recognise the importance of reading for pleasure and the impact it has on childrens futures. At St Marys, we aim to develop:

- Breadth and understanding of vocabulary
- Empathy- some children will only experience different types of people, cultures, families and experiences through books
- Support self-regulation and understanding of emotions
- Reading attainment and writing ability
- An increase in confidence
- General knowledge
- Comprehension skills
- Positive reading attitudes

### **Our School Commitment**

As a school, we are committed to providing children with a wide range of texts and books, giving children the opportunity to read often. These texts will include:

- fiction and non-fiction
- picture books
- poetry
- comics
- newspapers
- other pupils' work including book reviews, completed work (displayed or published)

### **Diversity in literature**

At St Marys, we have carefully crafted our own literacy spine which includes a wide variety of themes, focusing on diversity, inclusion and representation. Whilst being transported from our world to another, children become immersed in the lives of fictional characters, learning about a culture which is different from their own. Reading provides children with a 'window' to the wider world and provides them with a 'mirror' to their own lives as well as supporting them to make good life choices, helping shape their future direction. We also recognise that reading positively impacts childrens wellbeing.

### **Implementation**

To implement our intention, we provide an excellent range of quality texts in school, we replenish our books regularly, keeping up to date with new releases. We recognise that having access to books has an impact on childrens attainment. Therefore, we ensure that children who do not have a range of books at home are given the opportunity to borrow them from the school library or their class reading area as according to Clark and Poulton (2011) children who have books of their own enjoy reading more and read more frequently.

Another pivotal factor into fostering a love for reading, is giving children choice, choice and interest are highly related (Schraw et al, 1998; Clark and Phythian Sence, 2008). We ensure that children are able to select books for pleasure as well as having their Monster Phonics or Accelerated Reading book.

### **Teachers Role**

At St Marys teachers and support staff have an important role to play in order to foster a love for reading in our children. Teachers regularly read aloud to pupils demonstrating

prosody and enthusiasm. Teachers have been provided with a selection of texts from our reading spine which they read aloud to pupils throughout the year. During reading time, teachers interact and involve pupils by sharing thoughts, promoting discussion and ask meaningful questions to improve comprehension. As role models, teachers model themselves as readers discussing their own ideas and create an excitement around reading as evidence shows children are more likely to continue to be readers in home where books and reading are valued (Clark and Rumbold, 2006).

### School Library

We are extremely proud of the library we have recently developed within our school. It is a place where our pupils love to come to relax and enjoy reading. Within the library, we have a wide range of fictional texts including: comedy, adventure, sci-fi, mystery adventure and historical as well as offering pupils the opportunity to read non-fiction, comics, newspapers and poetry. We also have some published books in their too which our students have had work published in. All children enjoy a weekly 30-minute library session and have access to it at others points in the week should they wish to chose a book.

Our library is looked after by a team of librarians from UKS2 and Miss Heron. Our librarians enjoy updating our book recommendations stand and love the opportunity to go and read to younger pupils during their library sessions. They also listen and respond to pupil feedback, making requests for new books where possible as well as stock rotating books in classes so that there is always something new to read!

Within our library, we also have a section of library books which pupils have selected from the local 'Book Bus. The 'Book Bus visits school each year and every child in the school selects a book: once they have enjoyed their books, they are put in our school library for the whole school to enjoy.

### Class Reading Areas

In addition to our school library, every class has a reading area to promote reading for pleasure and to create a buzz around reading. Research shows that school libraries are associated with increased reading levels, reading confidence, writing for pleasure, writing confidence and reading attainment (Rudkin & Wood 2019) and therefore we wanted every class to have their own area. In our area, we have a range of texts, many of which are from our school reading spine.

### Celebrating Reading

Every year, we celebrate World Book Day, National Poetry Day and National Storytelling Week: we always ensure the whole school comes together to enjoy these days! During World Book Day, we promote a love for reading in a number of ways including: holding reading cafes, where parents have been invited to join us, dressing as our favourite book characters,

hosting a Book Bake Off, shared reading and other activities linked to our favourite stories. Children also receive a World Book Day token.

During National Poetry Day we have encouraged the children to write their own poems and share them in whole school celebrations and we have recited some of our favourite poems too: we are so impressed with the improvement in our oracy and the confidence of our pupils as a result! Children also love National Storytelling Week where older children have relished the opportunity to read with younger pupils and have assisted them to write their own stories taking inspiration from their favourite fairytales.

### **Spellbinding**

Every year, our Year 6 pupils take part in the 'Spellbinding' programme which is Cumbria Primary Schools Book Award; children are expected to read a shortlist of eleven books which have been chosen by Cumbria County Councils Library Services for Schools team. The award creates enthusiasm and excitement about books and widens reading choices by giving children the opportunity to discover new authors and try different genres. Pupils then vote for which book was their favourite which encourages lots of book talk. Our KS1 each also partake in a version of the programme aimed at younger children. They too vote on their favourite.

### **Poetry**

At St Marys, we recognise the importance of exposing children to a wide range of poetry and therefore, we have created a poetry spine. Each class has been allocated poems to read, poems to learn and recite and a poet to study. We thoroughly enjoy coming together as a whole school to share the poems we have learnt. Our EYFS children also carry out Poetry Basket on a daily basis, they read and learn a new poem each week.

### **Book Talk**

Within classes, teachers share their reading preferences with children and encourage children to share their recommendations with others. We have a stand in the library whereby teachers and pupils show what they enjoy reading. Furthermore, Year 6 have a reading scrapbook where they produce book reviews to share with their peers.

### **Visitors, Visits and Collaborations**

We provide opportunities for children to meet and work with established authors. For example, local author, Helen Haroldson, has worked with our children to write a story and create an audio book version of it as well as creating a blurb and marketing material to promote it. She has also carried out a whole school Q&A session where she has shared

information about becoming a writer and where she takes inspiration from. Our whole school has also been lucky enough to work with poet Andy Tooze who shared lots of his fantastic poems, performing them with the children and has supported them to produce their own poems.

Our KS2 children have also be exposed to William Shakespeares work in the form of 'Play in a Day' where they read, learn and act out a Shakespeare play, these have included: A Midsummers Night Dream and Romeo and Julliet. They have also attended Curwen Castle and Vulcans Park in Workington to watch Shakespeare performances carried out by theatre company, Oddsocks.

### ***Impact***

It is hoped the impact of reading for pleasure will result in life long readers. Research concludes that reading for pleasure benefits children as it results in an increased empathy, improved relationships with others, better mental health and wellbeing. When children read for pleasure, they acquire many language skills without consciously being aware: they expand their vocabulary, become confident readers and develop the ability to use complex grammatical structures and develop a good writing style.

**Signed: Headteacher: .....Mrs D Douglas**

**Signed: Chair of Governors: ..... Mr M Feathrstone**

**Date: June 2025**