



Hose Church of England Primary School

'Respect, Bravery, Success, Pride'

Reading at Hose C of E Primary School & Accelerated Reader: A Guide for Parents

At Hose Church of England Primary School, we hold reading at the heart of our curriculum. We know that the ability to read opens a world of opportunity for our children – it is the much needed key to unlocking learning and accessing the world.

To drive this vision forwards, we have conducted research into reading programs to develop a culture of 'reading for pleasure', as well as allowing staff, parents and pupils to monitor progress and attainment. As a result, those readers who have moved beyond the decodable Phonics books will now access books from our school library and will be beginning to use a program called Accelerated Reader.

"So it is with children who learn to read fluently and well: They begin to take flight into whole new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky."

— William James

What is Accelerated Reader?

Children complete in school an online assessment called Star Reading™, that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they cannot answer a question, or answer incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. The key feature of the assessment is to check children's comprehension, or understanding, of what they have read.

After the Star Reading assessment is completed, your child's teacher is then provided with a range of information related to your child's reading ability. This includes: their reading age, the difficulty range of books that your child should be reading (ZPD) and how children can be supported to improve their reading comprehension. The ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. It's important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs.

This personalised Star Reading ZPD Score allows us to identify books within a range that your child will be able to read. Some are easier reads, designed to build confidence and fluency, whilst others are more challenging and give a greater opportunity to encounter new vocabulary and challenge children's reading skills. This ensures that all children have a personalised reading experience based on their ability. It is essential that not only can your child decode to read the text, but that they show a high degree of comprehension and that they can understand what they have read. This also includes understanding how to tackle new vocabulary, make inferences and predictions, explain their thoughts and opinions on a text, retrieve information from the story and summarise their feelings on a book.

The children are able to select their own book from the library that falls within their ZPD range. When they have finished reading, they take a short quiz on a tablet or laptop. The quiz is designed to show whether a child has understood what they have read. If they are reading at the recommended level for them, then most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Teachers can monitor the success of children in these quizzes to set reading goals and inform future book choices.

Each time your child reads a book and completes their reading quiz, they can see their progress on Accelerated Reader and earn virtual reward points towards their reading goals. On the front cover of each book you can see a sticker which tells you how many points your child earns for completing the book. Points are generated by Accelerated Reader and are based on the difficulty of the book and the number of words within it. The more questions that a child gets right on their book quiz, the more points they will earn.

“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.”
— Victor Hugo

What can you do to help?

According to research, children who read for at least 35 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percent correct) on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child should have time set aside for reading each day. At Hose C of E, we ensure reading occurs daily for 20 minutes. Each child is then expected to read at home for 15 minutes each day (or more, if they want to!).

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Create a culture of reading in your home by reading with your child, talking about books, visiting your local library or bookshop and even actively letting your child see you read. Reading with your child, no matter what their age, is an important part of developing a good reader and building a lifelong love of reading and learning. Children are motivated by what they see others do – if they can see you read, they will want to read too! Don't forget when reading with or to your child, to stop and ask questions to develop their comprehension and wider reading skills.

Remembering to write in your child's reading record is essential as it lets us know how your child is finding their latest book choice and tells us when that book has been completed. If we can see that a child is struggling with their book, based on comments written in their reading record, we will support your child to choose one that will be an easier read next time. If we can see that your child has finished their book, based on comments in the reading record, we will ensure your child completes their reading quiz and chooses their next read. For shorter books, your child may read the book 2-3 times before completing their quiz and choosing a new book to develop their reading fluency.

You can check if a book your child is reading falls within their ZPD range by using this website:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx>

We cannot wait to take you with us on our reading journey and get stuck into a good book!

“There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book.”
— Frank Serafini