



Literacy Statement 2023



At Hodge Hill College we are striving to meet the literacy needs of all our students. High standard of literacy underpins student success and we understand that we need to develop our students' ability to read, write and speak effectively and with great confidence. We understand that for our students to excel in all aspects of life – from accessing their curriculum, to succeeding in GCSEs and then moving into the world of higher education and employment, our students need to be given lots of opportunity to develop these essential skills.

Accelerated Reader Overview: Testing, Targeting and Further Intervention

Every student takes an annual online reading test through our Accelerated Reader programme which provides all teaching staff with accurate reading ages for all students in order for them to adjust resources accordingly to suit the needs of their students. The programme also provides the Enhanced Provision Team with relevant diagnostic data which is then utilised in order to highlight students most in need of more significant intervention and reading support. This data is triangulated with in-class progress in order to ensure that the correct students are being targeted.

Our School Goals

1. Reading Recovery

In short, our main focus is to improve our reading ages across the school. All Year 7s and Y8s already have one lesson a week called Reading Recovery. The lesson primarily prioritises reading: teachers read to the class and students are given the opportunity to read aloud. We want all of our students to be strong readers who are reading at or above their chronological age. To be able to do this, students need to be able to break down words, read and understand them, which in turn will help them develop language comprehension, meaning they know how to understand and interpret language. The second central component of this is explicitly teaching vocabulary. This is where the teachers have identified some key words that students need to know in order to be able to read, access and enjoy the texts. This is really powerful because the more words that students know, the more they can connect with what they are reading. This allows them to develop their background knowledge and develop independent reading skills to construct the meaning of texts and the world around them as a whole.

2. Whole School Reading/Vocabulary

Further to the Reading Recovery lessons, explicit teaching of vocabulary and reading is something we are pushing across all subjects in the school. As stated before, the more students can read the better they will do in all subjects. All subjects from Science to Art, History and PE have now introduced elements of reading into their learning. We are all developing training and knowledge as teachers of literacy so that we can deliver this effectively in our lessons. Each team in school has a Literacy Rep who is supporting this very important vision of improving reading and vocabulary across our school. On Class Charts we have a positive available for reading because we know that it is important.

3. Book Clubs

In addition, we are working really hard to provide additional reading support – in a more targeted way. We have an exciting Book Club where some students have been invited to come and read in a small group. These Book Clubs run for all year groups and have started with some success already. If your child has been invited, please do encourage them to come along and read. We also aim to start Peer reading sessions between some of our Year 10 Pupil Leaders and our Year 7 students.

Reading for Pleasure and How the Online Library Can Help Support This

We want to encourage all students at Hodge Hill College to read for pleasure with a target of an average of 20 minutes of reading for pleasure per day. We have a vibrant and welcoming library that is the home of many exciting and new books. We have tried to ensure that there are many diverse books, a range of genres from science fiction to self-help, books for visually impaired students and lots of graphic novels. We have subscribed to many newspapers and magazines aimed at children too.

Whole School Marking Policy: Marking for Literacy

When marking detailed assessments, all teachers also mark for some aspects of literacy like spelling, paragraphing and the use of capital letters. This reinforces to all students the importance of literacy in all subjects.

How Can You at Home Help?

Please encourage your child to read as much as they can and as often as they can. Children must be read to. Take them to the local library to choose a book and let them see you read too.