

St. Giles Junior School
Library Policy

Introduction

'What we learn from good books and other resources becomes part of us.'
Library Association

We believe that the school curriculum develops enjoyment of, and commitment to, learning as a means of encouraging and stimulating the best possible progress and the highest possible attainment by all pupils. The role of our school library is central to supporting our children's learning. It plays a key role in helping our children to develop their communication and information-handling skills. We strive for it to offer them a view of the world that is free from stereotypes and promotes equality of opportunity for all.

We want our library to help our children become independent and lifelong learners through offering the opportunity for the children to take responsibility for their own learning. The resources in our library support the aims and objectives of the National Curriculum by promoting the ability in children to read fluently a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetic texts, and to reflect critically on what they read.

Aims and objectives

The aims of our library are:

- to extend children's learning experiences;
- to develop children's skills as independent learners;
- to support teaching and learning in our school, and to enrich the curriculum;
- to provide opportunities for children to access resources for themselves.

Organisation

We will make our school library accessible to all the children and staff at our school. The resources within it promote equality of opportunity for all our children.

We have newly designed our library's physical environment to stimulate our children. This motivates them to explore resources for their work in school and for personal study.

The library has collections of fiction and non-fiction resources. These include newspapers, magazines and story tapes. We will begin to introduce DVDs and CD roms. We classify all the books according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. We use coloured labels to identify general themes within the collections.

We are in the process of upgrading our library by installing a computerised library management system. Until this is complete, our children will continue to borrow resources by filling in their own record cards that are kept in each classroom. Other adults help our younger pupils with this task.

Our library is open during normal school hours. Each class can use during the week to develop the children's information handling skills. It is also open at lunch times for children to change their individual readers.

The Schools Library Service is used to supplement the range of resources available to children.

Our children further develop their library skills through the use of the local public library.

Resources

The Literacy Subject Manager oversees the Library. The Library Coordinator manages the school library and the library resources across the school.

We use the Schools Library Service to provide specialist advice and support where necessary.

All teachers are involved in the purchasing of library resources. Teachers involve the children in this process. The Library Coordinator consults staff and children when formulating the library development plan. We use our library resources to positively promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children and to reflect the needs of all our pupils.

We aim to replace at least 5 per cent of our stock each year. This ensures that our resources are in good condition, up to date and relevant to our children's needs.

The library development plan gives details of funding for the physical environment of the library. The library development plan is shared with the Head Teacher and the Literacy Subject Manager. It is also shared with the Governing Body.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The desired outcomes for this policy will be the improvement in our children's learning through the use of the library resources. The Library Coordinator will monitor the implementation of the policy and conduct staff, parent and children interviews to determine its effectiveness.

Review of the Policy

The Library Coordinator will review the policy annually and present a written report to the Head Teacher, Literacy Subject Manager and Governing Body. We will then use the findings to inform the next development plan.