



A Guide to Supporting Your Child's Reading Development at Home

Parent Power: Parents make the difference, say experts (DfE)

“A recent study has found that children who were reading to their parents improved their reading skills a great deal, even if the parents could not read English or read at all in any language.”

Why should my child read at home?

Reading at home is as important as reading at school and in so many ways it is more important, because it is at home that young people are more likely to start associating reading with enjoyment and relaxation, rather than purely with learning.

Regular reading will improve a student's:

- ✓ ability to use their imagination,
- ✓ understanding of vocabulary and spelling,
- ✓ understanding of punctuation and sense of sentence structures,
- ✓ understanding of the world around them and of other cultures,
- ✓ ability to relax and focus on a single task for a sustained period of time.

How can I support my child with their reading at home?

At All Saints Catholic School we expect all students in KS3 and KS4 to undertake 20-30 minutes of reading as their homework on every school day. English teachers will monitor your child's reading on a weekly basis.

You can support this by:

- checking that they have brought a reading book home from school every day and discussing this with them (especially if they have the book for a long period of time),
- ensuring that there is a calm, quiet place and time of the day when they can complete their 20 minutes of reading,
- discussing with them what they have read,
- hearing them read from time to time- however it is also important that they develop the ability to read in their head,
- signing the reading record in their journal every week as evidence that they have completed the homework. This can be found on page 53.

How else can I support their reading development?

If you have five minutes:

Ask your child to read you the instructions for a recipe, DIY furniture or a new gadget (make any reading that needs to be done your child's responsibility)

If you have 15 minutes:

Ask your child to read you an article from a newspaper or magazine - ask them to summarise what has been read afterwards. Discuss your views on the article. Encouraging talk based on their reading will also develop their depth of knowledge.

If you have 30 minutes:

Read a chapter of your child's book with them- you could take turns reading as *"Reading aloud is both educational and social, so there are layers of value there,"* (Doctor Carlsson-Paige). You could also play a board game that involves making words- like Scrabble or Boggle.

What can I do if my child just doesn't want to read?

Don't force them: initially, if your child is disinterested or reluctant to read, don't force the issue at that moment. It can be better to stop and try again when they are happy and relaxed. Perhaps try again using an audiobook in order to encourage your child to engage with the plot and then discuss what they have listened to with them.

Be a model reader: it is important that your child sees you reading books, newspapers, magazines and other materials.

Take turns: if they refuse to read initially, then read to them and then gradually offer to take turns.

Rewards: is there something that your child could work towards earning by completing a certain amount of reading or days of completed reading homework?

Further ideas for helping your child to read at home:

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> - This website includes lots of book suggestions and reviews for children and young people of all ages- it includes extracts of each book.)

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-age-10-11-year-6/>

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/tips-howtos/motivating-teen-readers-30110.html>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/blog/9-ways-to-get-teens-reading>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-19/five-ways-to-transform-your-teenager-into-an-avid-bookworm/9458276>

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If you have any other questions or concerns about how to motivate or support your child with their reading development, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs A. Whiley – awhiley@allsaintsschool.co.uk or your child's English teacher.