

### Reading for Pleasure: Pedagogy

At Emmaus, we want children to enjoy reading, as well as be proficient at the underlying skills. We recognise that children who read for enjoyment routinely are also more likely to be more successful in later life (Clark and Rumbold 2006). We want our children to be excited by the opportunities that reading brings: to go on adventures, discover new places, empathise with different lives and learn new facts. Reading can bring all this and more.

The Open University and UK Literacy Association (UKLA) (2021) have identified a series of steps that schools can take to foster reading for pleasure with their communities. This builds on the work of Cremin et al (2009; 2014), who identified how to build communities of readers.

- **Teachers' knowledge of children's literature and other texts:** Evidence suggests that teachers who have a broader understanding of children's literature are more able to make effective book recommendations to their class, more able to model and foster reading for pleasure (Cremin et al 2008).
- **Teachers' knowledge of children's reading practices:** Having an understanding of children's reading preferences, favourite authors, and reading practices at home allows teachers to tailor book recommendations- allowing teachers to get 'the right book into the right hand'.
- **Reading for Pleasure (RfP) pedagogy:** Four reading practices are required for a robust Reading for Pleasure pedagogy: reading aloud, informal booktalk and recommendations and independent reading time within a social reading environment (OU and UKLA 2021a). These must be underpinned by a commitment to 'LIST': RfP Classrooms need to be 'Learner led, Informal, Social and include Texts that tempt.
- **Reading Teachers (teachers who read and readers who teach):** Teachers that are both readers and teachers are better placed to create more reciprocal reading communities: they can share their own experiences of reading and model reading behaviours to the children in their class.
- **Reading communities:** RfP thrives in the relationships between children, teachers, families and communities. Shared understandings can be developed about the value of everyday reading and the changing nature of reading in the twenty-first century. Stronger connections can be fostered between children's home and school reading experiences.

Since 2021, we have introduced reading for pleasure as Cremin et al (2008) described. We focused on each of these steps in turn with staff and children. In the years ahead, we will be building on this to develop further. These include:

- Professional Development Meetings for staff about each of the areas above.
- Staff Book Clubs: each half term, staff will share and discuss a contemporary children's book, to enhance their understanding of children's literature.
- Investment in new children's books: we have enjoyed investing in our class libraries over the last 5 years, building a strong relationship with a local independent children's bookseller. These include ensuring children have access to books with protagonists from diverse backgrounds, award-winning contemporary books and giving children the chance to re-read books they have already encountered in previous years.

- Development of class libraries: we are currently developing our library spaces within school. This includes developing a school-wide cataloguing system, allowing children to take library books home and staff to rotate books between class libraries. In KS2, we have organised class libraries by genre, using the same sticker system in each class. This makes it easier for children to find the books they need.
- Creating a social reading environment: we have changed our book storage so that most books can be stored 'front facing'- allowing children to see front covers as they browse. We are introducing topic boxes, where children can find books linked to their lessons. We would like to develop our reading environments- to create comfy outdoor reading areas that will allow children to read in a social and relaxed manner.
- Developing our reading environments around school: to provide children with comfortable environments that are attractive to spend time in. This includes providing soft furnishings in class libraries, outdoor reading environments and several micro-libraries around school. These micro-libraries have been designed with input from our Reading Ambassadors. Our Reading Ambassadors have been chosen because they are passionate about reading and enjoying sharing reading choices with other children. They will recommend different books to others, helping to build our reading community across school (Open University and UKLA 2022).

In 2023-24, we will be working on making links with our wider community to build communities of readers. Last term, we were awarded a new library space by Chase Rewarding Futures Library Programme (2023), which we used to create a new bedtime story library for EYFS and KS1. We shall open this to our parents this year and encourage families to access this. We will also hold events across the year to celebrate reading, not just with our pupils but also their families. We will also invest in audio players to help families who may prefer this to reading aloud.

For more information, please read:

**Chase 2023** Chase Rewarding Futures Library Programme <https://www.chase.co.uk/gb/en/chase-rewarding-futures/> Accessed 11.09.2023

**Clark C and Rumbold K** (2006) *Reading for Pleasure a research overview*, , The National Literacy Trust

**Cremin T et al** (2008) Exploring teachers' knowledge of children's literature; *Cambridge Journal of Education* Vol. 38 No. 4 pp. 449-464

**Cremin T et al** (2009) Teachers as readers: building communities of readers; *Literacy* Vol. 43 No.1 pp. 11-19

**Cremin T et al** (2014) *Building Communities of Engaged Readers: Reading for Pleasure* Routledge London

**Open University and UKLA** (2021) *Reading for Pleasure* <https://ourfp.org> Accessed 14.09.2021

**Open University and UKLA** (2021) *Reading for Pleasure Pedagogy* <https://ourfp.org/reading-for-pleasure-pedagogy/> Accessed 14.09.2021

**Open University and UKLA** (2022) *Reading for Pleasure Reading Communities* <https://ourfp.org/finding/reading-communities-5/> Accessed 20.09.2022

