



Bellerive FCJ Catholic College

Reading for Pleasure Policy

This policy will be implemented in a way which honours the vision that every FCJ school is a community of persons - students, staff, governors - bound together in mutual respect and ready to rely on each other in fulfilling their privileged task as educators in a Catholic school.

“Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift.” – Kate DiCamillo

Bellerive FCJ Mission Statement:

- To help everyone within a caring community to grow in faith
- To respect and value other cultures and faiths
- To make the most of every given ability
- To enjoy and achieve personal growth and academic excellence
- To prepare pupils for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society

History of Document

Issue No.	Author/ Owner	Date Written	To Governors	Date Approved	Comments
1	NH/LG	February 2019	March 2019	March 2019	
2		Reviewed	October 2023		

Purpose

This policy outlines our vision and the roles and responsibilities of our whole school community to ensure that reading for pleasure is, and continues to be, a central part of life and learning at Bellerive.

Vision

We recognise and value the power developing a love of reading has and its ability to transform all our lives for the better. We therefore want everyone - students, staff and parents/carers alike - to be part of a growing reading community and to be actively supported in enjoying and developing a lifelong love of reading.

As established by a growing body of research, we consider reading for pleasure not only to be a worthwhile end in itself but also appreciate its role in helping to kindle and fuel a desire to learn in our students that will enable them to achieve their full potential across the curriculum and enhance their emotional and social wellbeing throughout their lives.

We also appreciate how the proven benefits of reading for pleasure, such as developing empathy and improving understanding of ourselves and others, can help us to live out our FCJ values and support us in our mission:

- *To help everyone within a caring community to grow in faith*
- *To respect and value other cultures and faiths*
- *To make the most of every given ability*
- *To enjoy and achieve personal growth and academic excellence*
- *To prepare pupils for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society*

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff

All staff should actively promote and encourage reading for pleasure as appropriate to their role through:

- Drawing out meaning and references to our FCJ values and faith in texts where applicable
- Sharing a culturally diverse selection of recommendations that embody aspects of our FCJ Values and that are accessible to all abilities
- Respecting and valuing other cultures and faiths by exploring different points of view and teaching students to evaluate texts objectively
- Displaying reading strategies to aid understanding
- Valuing and utilising DEAR time effectively to allow students time to develop their own reading
- Creating and maintaining dedicated space for displays related to reading
- Modelling positive reading behaviour through their own reading and use of texts in class
- Sharing recommendations with colleagues and students to encourage discussion
- Actively promoting reading by supporting and participating in whole school reading activities, events and initiatives

Library

The Library has a central role in promoting reading and widening opportunities for reading for pleasure across school. The Librarian is responsible for coordinating and supporting activities and initiatives that help to cultivate and nurture our whole school reading community by:

- Creating reading resources with an FCJ focus and relevant local/national initiatives for use in form/class time
- Sharing culturally diverse and accessible reading recommendations to departments for staff and classrooms
- Creating reading displays and updating screens in library and across school to promote and celebrate reading
- Organising events e.g. book fairs, author visits
- Facilitating book groups for a range of interests and abilities and identified target groups
- Monitoring use of library and student borrowing
- Coordination of 'Reading Buddy' scheme
- Managing and developing the library collection to support all students in developing positive reading habits and to enable them to choose books that will suitably stretch and challenge
- Delivering timetabled library and reading lessons for Year 7
- Encouraging and supporting teachers in using the library for other year groups for reading related lessons and activities
- Ensuring the library is an inviting and comfortable space for all students to enjoy reading in
- Recruiting and managing Student Librarian team
- Supporting departments e.g. providing recommended reading lists, developing classroom collections and circulating regular reading resources
- Building and maintaining links with other schools, public library service and relevant organisations to support reading for pleasure and share best practice

Students

Students are encouraged and supported to develop a love of reading by:

- Making links between texts and the FCJ Values where applicable
- Having access to a wide variety of texts from different cultures and listening to different points of view
- Being supported by staff and the librarian to learn how choose books that they enjoy and find interesting
- Always carrying an enjoyable book of their choosing with them
- Maintaining a reading log in their journals
- Sharing recommendations with peers e.g. via form boards, recommended bookmarks in the library, sharing recommendations on screens around school
- Student Librarians acting as reading ambassadors to peers by being actively involved in reading events and promotion, recommending books, creating displays and helping to select library stock

- Sharing their suggestions, ideas and views in regular surveys and through Student Voice

Parents and Carers

We support parents and carers to encourage regular reading for pleasure outside of school and develop their own love of reading by:

- Disseminating information about reading events and activities happening in school and locally via the website, social media, newsletters and letters home
- Providing age-appropriate reading recommendations on our website and at parent events and evenings
- Regularly updating information on reading available on the school website to support reading for pleasure outside of school as well as develop their own reading
- Inviting parents to attend events and workshops that promote reading for pleasure
- Encouraging students and their families to use the school library and the public library service
- Promoting use of our 'Book Exchange' in the main reception

Further Reading

BOP Consulting, (2015) *Literature review: The impact of reading for pleasure and empowerment*. London: Reading Agency

<https://readingagency.org.uk/news/The%20Impact%20of%20Reading%20for%20Pleasure%20and%20Empowerment.pdf>

Department for Education, Education Standards Team (2012), *Research evidence on reading for pleasure*. London: DfE

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284286/reading_for_pleasure.pdf

Sullivan, A. and Brown, M. (2013), *Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: the role of reading*. London: Institute of Education, Centre for Longitudinal Studies

<http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/shared/getfile.ashx?itemtype=document&id=1719>