The Reading Curriculum – Years 2-6

At Swindon Academy, children are provided with multiple opportunities for reading including daily story time, regular DEAR time and an annual programme of reading events. In addition, every teacher uses the reading KPI's to make the learning and skills in reading lessons explicit and to encourage pupils to assess their own learning and understand their next steps.

All teachers are expected to be passionate about reading, to talk about the books they read, and to encourage a deep love of reading in their pupils. All pupils are encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely, and often, increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imaginations and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds.

In Years 2-5, children are streamed according to their reading ability. This is determined through previous data captures and the most recent Accelerated Reader Star tests. The Year 6 cohort remain in their own classes. Children are taught on two-week cycles, with reading lessons taking place daily.

We use the Pearson Bug Club programme and resources to teach reading throughout the school. Pearson Bug Club is a whole-school reading programme that joins books with an online reading platform. We provide hard copies of the books allocated to each class. The book can also be accessed online. There is a Guided Reading Pupil Booklet, Guided Reading Notes and a Photocopy Master with additional tasks for each book. The scheme includes whole-class teaching software, whiteboard activities and teaching and assessment guides. All teachers have their own log-ins and password enabling them to allocate books to children in their class and to monitor homework completion.

We use the Renaissance Learning 'Accelerated Reader' software to support independent reading at Key Stage 2. All pupils have a weekly library lesson overseen by a qualified librarian. They choose three books which are selected according to their reading level. Once they have read a book, they take an online test to check their understanding of the story. Accelerated Reader also provides teachers with information about reading ages.