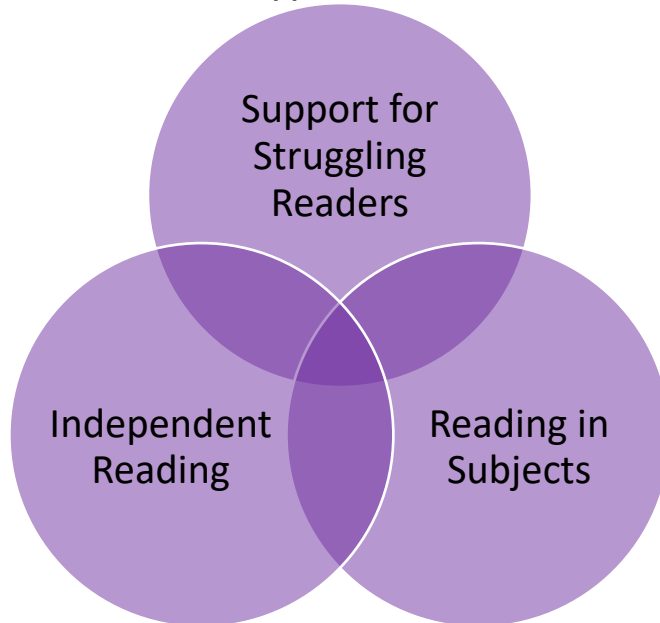


Reading at Weston Favell Academy

Why Reading Matters

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” Dr. Seuss

We aim to give our students the motivation to read for pleasure, time to read, the skills required to read academic texts and opportunities to read a wide range of genres.



Reading Lessons KS3

A significant emphasis is placed on developing literacy skills across the curriculum here at WFA. Students in Year 7 and 8 complete a reading lesson each week where they read a class novel and complete Bedrock Learning lessons. Students in Year 9 students will engage in a reading lesson per week where they read a text but do not complete Bedrock.

Our main objectives during reading lessons and English are to expose students to challenging texts, increase the time for deep explorations of a text and provide opportunities for class discussion.

Reading Across The Curriculum

The importance of vocabulary is undeniable as there is a high correlation between academic success and vocabulary size. In order to comprehend a text a student needs to know an estimated 95% of its vocabulary. If students do not adequately and steadily grow their vocabulary knowledge, reading comprehension will be affected.

To ensure that word learning is effective and targeted, teachers at WFA teach explicit Tier 2 vocabulary. Tier 2 words appear across a range of subjects and are words that students may read but may not use in everyday speech. For example, consequential, beneficial, analyse, evaluate and derive.

- You can support your child with their vocabulary acquisition at home by encouraging them to read regularly and to read challenging books that contain a range of vocabulary.

Bedrock Learning KS3

Bedrock Learning immerses students in academic vocabulary through an interactive online curriculum. Bedrock Learning is divided into ten blocks, from 3 to 12. Each block takes about one academic year to complete. At the start of their Bedrock journey, students take the Alpha Test. This ensures learners begin with the block that's most tailored to their ability – so not frustratingly easy for more-able students, and not too hard for those who find learning more challenging.

Once placed in the correct block, students progress through a variety of topics (between 10 and 14 in each block), experiencing engaging, language-rich fiction and non-fiction texts that expand their knowledge of the world as well as their vocabulary.

Each topic consists of six 15-20 minute lessons, plus a pre- and post-test to track students' progress. Learners make optimum progress when they complete two lessons each week.

Every student in year 7 and 8 is expected to complete two Bedrock Learning lessons a week as part of their home learning.

Reading Assessments KS3 and KS4

At Weston Favell Academy all KS3 and KS4 students will complete a GL reading assessment twice per year. Students will be required to take a short online assessment to give them a clear indication on their reading age and vocabulary scores. It is imperative that students complete this to the best of their ability and do not rush.

This data will allow us to target any students who may need additional support/intervention as well as keeping parents informed on their child's reading development. The data received is as follows;

Reading age - this tells us what age students can read at – you can compare this to their chronological age to see how much they may be struggling.

Standard Assessment Score – this allows us to see how students can comprehend what they are reading compared to a national average (100).

Strategies for parents to support reading at home

- Talk - to children about the book they are reading
- Predict - Ask 'What will happen next?' 'What could happen at the end?'
- Look - at the front cover together and guess what the book might be about?
- Choose - 3-5 unfamiliar words and test understanding?
- Discuss – using open ended questions 'What is your opinion so far?' 'Describe the main themes involved?' 'Explain how you felt reading this...'
- Range of reading – offer children the opportunity to positively explore different types of reading material such as graphic novels and Manga, comics, magazines, e-books & audiobooks; this extends to personal areas of interest, e.g. science, art, sport and mental health. It's also important for children to see themselves and their experiences reflected in reading material; there are also many diverse books that are inclusive and reflect family backgrounds.