

Improving literacy in your community

The National Literacy Trust is the UK's largest independent literacy charity, working to ensure that disadvantaged children in the UK have the literacy skills they need to succeed in education and in life.

About the project

Through the Literacy Champions project we want to address Bradford's significant literacy needs on a community level.

The National Literacy Trust has been active in Bradford since 2012. Over the past five years, the charity has worked with over 200 schools in the area, and created links with 30 local partners who have supported literacy in Bradford.

Literacy Champions want to help improve literacy in their community. They could be a parent, business professional, teacher, student, sports coach or just passionate about making a difference in their local area. They can do this in many different ways depending on who they are and the communities they are living in and working with.

We have a dedicated Volunteer and Support Officer based in Bradford to work with volunteers, and community-based partners to support the development of ideas that will help improve literacy across the district.

Why volunteer?

Volunteering as a Bradford Literacy Champions is a great way to get involved and give something back to your community. You will get full training and develop new skills.

Volunteering is one of the most rewarding things you can do. It can help you to:

- Gain confidence
- Make a difference
- Meet different kinds of people and make new friends
- Be part of a community
- Learn new skills
- Take on a challenge
- Have fun!

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How will it work?

The Literacy Champions programme will be running for a year and we are looking for 50 volunteers to sign up.

We are looking for a diverse range of volunteers who will want to work on different ideas and initiatives across Bradford.

Literacy Champion volunteers will attend a half day training session to give you practical ideas and inspiration. You will also get a resource pack to help with your ideas.

We will provide ongoing support to volunteers to help the idea develop and make sure it is practical and achievable. Towards the end of the project we will celebrate your achievements through events designed to share your great work and stories with others.

What do Literacy Champions do?

Literacy Champions will:

- Work in your local community to develop ideas that help improve literacy. This could be with a school, community centre, library, children's centre or elsewhere
- Encourage the people you are working with to make reading part of their everyday lives and something they enjoy
- Develop an idea for a literacy project that you think could make a difference in your community
- Report back on what you do and how it is going

Some ideas we could help Literacy Champions develop include:

- Setting up a reading group for adults or children
- Helping parents visit a children centre for the first time by taking them along and making introductions
- Getting friends or neighbours to sign up to the local library
- Taking children from the neighbourhood to the library during the summer to help them complete the Summer Reading Challenge
- Offering an information session in their home to family and neighbours
- Organising a book swap in their local area
- Planning a literacy-based outing (such as a shopping trip or a trip to the countryside)
- Planning a local poetry session or competition for the community

Can I be a Literacy Champion?

Whether you have previous experience, or simply have an idea to try to see whether you can make a difference, we want to hear from you!

You can be a Literacy Champion if you:

- Have one or two hours a week to commit to the volunteer role
- Are keen to learn ways to help promote literacy in your community

How do I get involved?

If you are interested in becoming a Literacy Champion please contact us on bradford@literacytrust.org.uk or 07913 122257 so we can discuss the project and your ideas further.