

National Literacy Trust Suffolk Schools' Reading Pledge



Changing life stories

**GET
SUFFOLK
READING**

Thank you for choosing to join the Suffolk Schools Reading Pledge. We are looking forward to working with your school to enhance reading and literacy for your pupils.

This pledge has been created in a way that allows you to adapt the targets/ actions to your school's needs. You will already be doing some amazing things for reading and literacy in your schools. Therefore, to get the maximum benefit, it is essential you choose action points from this pledge that you are not currently doing.

The pledge is divided into three areas: **strategic**, **community** and **in-school**.

To ensure strategy underpins the work that you undertake, schools must select a minimum of one **strategic** action point.

You will see that the action points are categorised into 'Bronze', 'Silver' and 'Gold', reflecting the scale of the intervention. These actions are then rewarded using a points system, in which you will collect and work towards your school's achievable target. Any links to useful resources and materials from the National Literacy Trust website are highlighted in [blue](#).

To reach the desired level of engagement with this pledge, a **minimum target of 50 points** should be achieved across the year.

We look forward to working with you this year.

Suffolk Schools' Reading Pledge

1. Set your school an achievable target of points to achieve.
2. Highlight the actions you think would benefit your school and that you aren't already doing. These actions can be across any of the categories depending on your desired focuses as a school.

Our Target:

	Bronze (5 points)	Silver (10 points)	Gold (15 points)
Strategic	<p>Complete the National Literacy Trust's Local Annual Literacy Survey available in the spring term of 2024.</p> <p>This online survey gathers data from primary and secondary school pupils about their attitudes and behaviour towards literacy. Schools receive their own individualised report after taking part, which is a useful tool for tracking progress.</p> <p>Success: Confirmed completion of the National Literacy Trust Survey.</p>	<p>Complete an annual review of school reading provision, through National Literacy Trust membership. Good literacy skills underpin academic success. Identify key literacy priorities based on the needs of your pupils and establish how these will be addressed in your school improvement plan. Annual review resource is HERE.</p> <p>Success: Evidence on school improvement plan to demonstrate what is being done to improve/develop literacy skills. Actions taken to improve these.</p>	<p>Use your completed National Literacy Trust annual review of reading provision to create a bespoke school literacy action plan that is shared with all staff and parents and reviewed termly for progress.</p> <p>Success: Evidence from revised policies, schemes of work, lesson plans, training notes etc. to demonstrate what is being done to improve strategy and practice as outlined in your school's literacy action plan.</p>

	Target Focus Area	Bronze (5 points)	Silver (10 points)	Gold (15 points)
Community	Inter-School Links/ Communication	<p>Communicate with other local schools in your area to arrange book swaps to support school libraries and book trolleys.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your communication and/or sharing of resources with other schools in your local area? (1-10)</p>	<p>Engage with other local primary schools to encourage collaborative reading events/literacy events. Use our Book Week resource or Christmas flood event page for ideas.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your collaboration/communication with other local primary schools? (1-10)</p>	<p>Organise transition events for KS2 students such as attending secondary school libraries or completing a transition project, (e.g. our Cosmic Intergalactic Transition Project).</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your transition activities with your local secondary schools? (1-10)</p>
	Parental Engagement	<p>Have a dedicated area of the school website with a bank of resources available to parents/carers for them to always access. This could contain helpful links to websites (such as the National Literacy Trust Words for Life page or book lists to support reading at home.</p> <p>Benchmark: How confident are you that parents/carers have the tools/resources available to them at home to support reading with their children? (1-10)</p>	<p>Host parental engagement sessions to encourage parents to read to/ with their children. For example, this could be sessions such as story sacks containing books, props and dress-up items to bring the story to life.</p> <p>Here are several National Literacy Trust resources to help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent assembly on joy of book ownership. • Story sack resource • Storytelling to promote parental engagement • Family reading survey • Creative ideas for engaging parents through books • Support for multilingual families • Reading aloud and sharing books <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your quality of engagement with parents inside the school environment? (1-10)</p>	<p>Provide upskilling sessions for parents/carers and pupils held in the local library. This will support those with using the library, online system, access to Featherbed Tales and e-Books.</p> <p>Benchmark: How confident are you that your pupils understand how to use the library effectively? (1-10)</p>

Community	Staff Engagement with Reading	<p>Encourage an adult book club/ book swap shelf for all staff and/or parents to attend/use to encourage reading and build confidence with reading. Use our National Literacy Trust staff presentation on book knowledge resource to help.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate the level of engagement of adults reading in your school? (1-10)</p>	<p>Encourage parents and governors to become National Literacy Trust Literacy Champions for your school.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate the involvement and impact of your Literacy Champions within the literacy curriculum at your school? (1-10)</p>	<p>Support your National Literacy Trust Literacy Champions in your school to host an event/activity session around literacy.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate the visibility of activities or events by your Literacy Champions in your school? (1-10)</p>
	Links In and Around the Community	<p>Survey wider school community to find out what they are reading or interested in to support engagement with reading/texts. Use the Family reading survey to help here.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your understanding of the genres and types of texts your pupils enjoy reading? (1-10).</p> <p>How much awareness do you have regarding the choice of texts that the wider community enjoy? (1-10) (e.g., parents, siblings, other schools)</p>	<p>Create accessible book swap areas in the form of a book swap trolley for children to swap books at the end of the day e.g., playground.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate the levels of pupil engagement with current book swap trolleys/shelves in your school? (1-10)</p>	<p>Set up 'Reading Corners' in local spaces or school communal areas.</p> <p>Benchmark: Are there clear areas around the school dedicated to reading with relevant reading materials for both students and visitors? (1-10)</p>

Community	Links with Local Library and other community areas	<p>Establish reading role models from the community e.g., adults, community figures, teachers, parents, older students (from local high schools) and make sure at least one is visible to your school community.</p> <p>Benchmark: How visible are reading role models around the school? E.g., posters, visits, film clips, assemblies, newsletters (1-10).</p>	<p>Work with local book shops or libraries to support understanding of 'hot topics' or most favourable books to read.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your quality of engagement with local book shops or libraries in the area? (1-10). How would you rate your knowledge of the current 'hot topics' or favourable books? (1-10)</p>	<p>Offer a local trip to the library or set up a visit from a librarian.</p> <p>Benchmark: How confident are you that every child has a library card? (1-10). How confident are you that every child knows where and how to access the library? (1-10)</p>
	Links with National Literacy Trust	<p>Keep in contact with National Literacy Trust GSR Project Managers to receive updates on resources/events/support with reading and literacy in your school.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your school's communication and ability to reach out for literacy/reading support when required? (1-10)</p>	<p>Use the National Literacy Trust literacy events calendar for the school to plan for work in school for key events. You can include all the relevant events across the school year in your school calendar to host reading activities or sessions and incorporate into the curriculum e.g., World Book Day, Empathy Day, Roald Dahl's Birthday, Libraries Week, and the Summer Reading Challenge.</p> <p>Benchmark: Are there evident points throughout the year where reading events/focus is happening? Have you communicated or sourced resources from National Literacy Trust to support events happening in your school?</p>	<p>Celebrate reading by taking pupils to community spaces (or them visiting your school) to read to others e.g., elderly care homes, charity groups, community groups.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate the links your school has with the wider community in terms of celebrating reading and literacy in alternative environments? (1-10)</p> <p>Encourage your pupils to attend literacy or reading events in the wider community, recognising attendance through school praise initiative/strategy such as house points/positive points e.g., events with National Literacy Trust GSR / community school holiday projects.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your communication of extra-curricular activities available to pupils at your school? (1-10)</p> <p>How would you rate the exposure of these events and the encouragement the school gives pupils to attend these events using recognition? (1-10)</p>

	Target Focus Area	Bronze (5 points)	Silver (10 points)	Gold (15 points)
In-School	School Library	<p>Increase pupil involvement as 'Pupil Librarians' and complete the National Literacy Trust pupil survey about libraries.</p> <p>Benchmark: How involved are your pupils in managing the library? (1-10) e.g., pupil librarians, suggesting books, requesting books, book champions.</p>	<p>Have a well-stocked library that aims to offer a potential 10 books per student. See also our National Literacy Trust Diverse Libraries Webinar Series for staff to watch.</p> <p>Benchmark: How broad do you feel your book offer is for the pupils at your school? (1-10) How many books do you have in your inventory in the school library?</p>	<p>Use the National Literacy Trust Advocacy for School Libraries resource to help you develop your library provision. Including encouraging pupils to use the library, staffing, the library environment and linking the library to the National Curriculum.</p> <p>Benchmark: Results recorded on the audit sheet and three action points. Audit to be completed again</p>
		<p>Have an allocated space of the library containing a small section of younger reading/picture books for children to take home and read with younger siblings to encourage reading for pleasure in the home.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your offer in the school library of books/picture books for younger readers? (1-10)</p>		<p>Arrange or attend author visits in schools or at local libraries. You might also want to help promote parental engagement and fundraising for your school library provision through our libraries fundraising resource.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate the exposure your pupils have had with local libraries or authors through visits at your school? (1-10)</p>
	Curriculum		<p>Ensure your curriculum contains representation and diversity. Can children see themselves and others in the books they read? Use our National Literacy Trust website pages to help. See also our National Literacy Trust Diverse Libraries Webinar Series for staff to watch.</p> <p>Benchmark: How diverse do you believe your current curriculum and book selection in the school library is? (1-10).</p>	<p>Encourage the use of e-readers and audiobooks to capture skills such as critical listening, oral language, and vocabulary and building on prior knowledge. See the National Literacy Trust audiobook and literacy page for research and teaching resources.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your offer or inclusion of e-books and audiobooks within your reading time? (1-10)</p>

	<p>Reading with Others</p>	<p>Set up paired reading across key stages e.g., KS2 reading to KS1.</p> <p>Benchmark: Is there evidence of mixed key stage or ability reading to engage all pupils in reading across the school? (1-10)</p>	<p>Set up parent and child sessions within reading time at school to encourage engagement.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate the parental engagement with reading activities in your school? (1-10)</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for peer-to-peer book recommendations for book talk across the school. These resources will help.</p>
<p>In-School</p>	<p>Reading for Pleasure</p>	<p>Ensure there is consistency across the school in dedicated Reading for Pleasure time, (N.B. for both pupils' reading time and time or teachers to read aloud to pupils in a class read).</p> <p>Start the new year in September with Reading for Pleasure at the heart of the school. Run Reading for Pleasure transition activities across all year groups to welcome pupils to their new classes. See suggested activities here.</p>	<p>Provide activities to encourage reading in different ways, for those pupils who have little/no engagement in reading.</p> <p>Examples include following instructions to games by setting up a board game; baking at home using the instructions; reading a fact file about their favourite person; following instructions for a craft activity; reading the lyrics/singing the lyrics to a favourite song.</p> <p>Benchmark: How diverse/differentiated do you think your reading activity offer is for those with little/no engagement with reading activities? (1-10)</p> <p>Run whole-school reading challenges each term to celebrate and promote reading. The National Literacy Trust have many competitions and challenges year-round, see here.</p> <p>Benchmark: How would you rate your offer of reading events and competitions across the school? (1-10)</p>	<p>Build a Reading for Pleasure whole school culture. Reading for Pleasure should be key to the whole school ethos and extends beyond and from World Book Day, for example. Here are 20 practical ideas.</p>

Partners and wider opportunities to develop your pledge

Mobilising partnerships is central to our approach in all our National Literacy Trust Hubs. We work with a diverse range of businesses, community groups, health, education, and cultural organisations to help raise literacy levels in Suffolk.

Each of the partners listed below contributes directly to one **or more** of the pledge action points and schools are encouraged to explore **all** the partner opportunities. From time to time, Get Suffolk Reading can broker a new opportunity or resource for Suffolk schools, and we will use this partnership to keep you in the loop with latest opportunities.

- **Suffolk libraries:** Encourage parents and pupils to join here:

[Joining the library | Suffolk Libraries](#)

Access thousands of free ebooks on the Libby App and Audio Books on Borrowbox

[Read | Suffolk Libraries](#)

Magazines and newspapers are great to encourage reading and Suffolk Libraries offer a range of free titles about music, sports and more on the **Press Reader** app:

[Read | Suffolk Libraries](#)

- **Suffolk family hubs:** Find out more here:

suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/suffolk-family-hubs

- **Featherbed Tales:** Featherbed Tales lets you share beautiful stories brought to life with your own voice! Perfect for children developing their language skills and free from Suffolk libraries [Featherbed Tales – our digital story sharing service | Suffolk Libraries](#)

- **Local authors:** To find out more about local authors and what they can offer your school, head over to our [webpage](#).

Contact us on: getsuffolkreading@literacytrust.org.uk if you'd like help in setting up an author visit or similar event.

- **National Literacy Trust resources:** Using your free one-year membership, access a wealth of resources to support you in achieving your School's Reading Pledge, such as:
 - a) [Read](#) our Primary School Library Alliance Working Together report Nov 2022
 - b) Take our evidence-based online training course [Love our Libraries](#) which includes resources to help schools audit and develop reading for pleasure provision, putting school libraries at the heart of their reading communities.
 - c) [Read](#) the many useful and informative articles on our Library Lifeline blog pages.
 - d) [Words for Life | National Literacy Trust](#) has lots of suggestions of fun activities for children aged 0-12 years. You can also find our Top 50 recommended reads here.