

Literacy

Developing skills in the classroom and at home





What is Literacy?

Literacy is the ability to:

- + Communicate effectively with others verbally.
- + Communicate ideas in writing.
- + Understand and comment on written texts.
- + Build on the ideas of others.
- + Read new texts with fluency and understanding.

Disciplinary Literacy

Every subject has key words that pupils need to understand to have a good understanding of the course.

Circumference (Maths) "Find the circumference of the circle"

If we remove the key word from the sentence, the task becomes unclear.

Developing a good vocabulary is essential for pupils to progress in every part of the curriculum from BGE to Senior Phase and beyond.

Reading Wise

New Programme which builds on and develops pupils' vocabulary.

Multidisciplinary - key vocabulary from all subject areas!

Currently all S1 pupils are enrolled and will have time in class to access the programme - they should also spend a little bit of time at home on this.

Plan to roll out to S2 shortly!



Definition: noun
a part of a song that is repeated after every verse

Example:

The song had a very catchy _____.

Synonyms:

repetition
refrain



chorus



dialogue





Accelerated Reader (S1)

Assess	Initial reading levels are assessed.
Read	Choose books at the level or above.
Quiz	Complete quizzes and note down scores.
Improve	See improved reading comprehension and reading level increase!
Access	Access from school or home.

Literature Circles

- Group reciprocal reading programme for S1 & S2
- Promotes reading fluency
- Peer supported
- Develops talking and listening skills through discussions
- Personal choice of books/reading groups
- Tackle more challenging texts than individual reading



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open book. The person is wearing a dark blue shirt. The book is open, showing several pages of text. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "Reading for Enjoyment" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

Reading for Enjoyment

Reading for Enjoyment

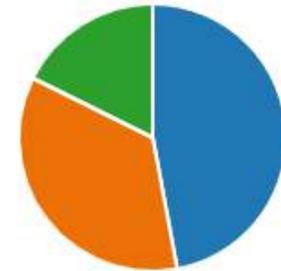
- Most pupils prefer to read physical books as opposed to digital books.
- Most pupils prefer to read at home - let's continue to encourage this!

4. I find it easier to read when I am

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

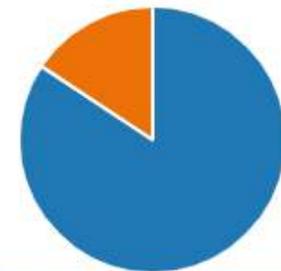
At home	24
In school	18
Somewhere else	9



5. I prefer to read...

[More Details](#)

Physical books	43
Digital books (e-books)	8



Reading For Enjoyment

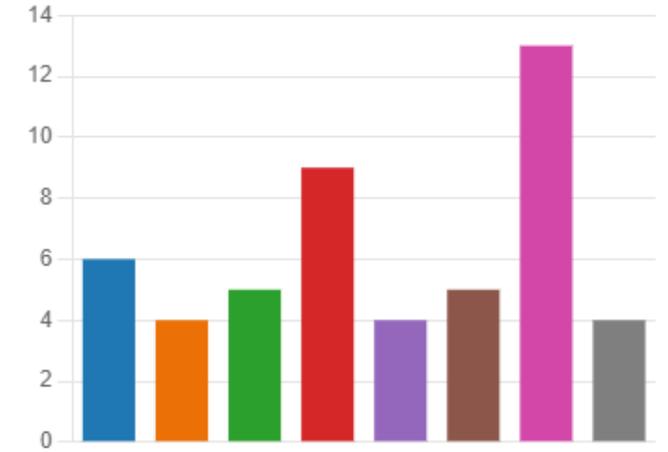
The number of pupils who never read out with school is higher than anything else, despite pupils saying they have access to books – we need your help to change this!

Talk about what you are reading and encourage young people to do the same: newspapers, reports, books, recipes, information on a packet of food, anything at all!

. How often do you read outside of school?

[More Details](#)

● Daily	6
● Every other day	4
● Twice a week	5
● Weekly	9
● Fortnightly	4
● Monthly	5
● Never	13
● Other	4



2. I have access to books at home.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Yes	50
● No	2

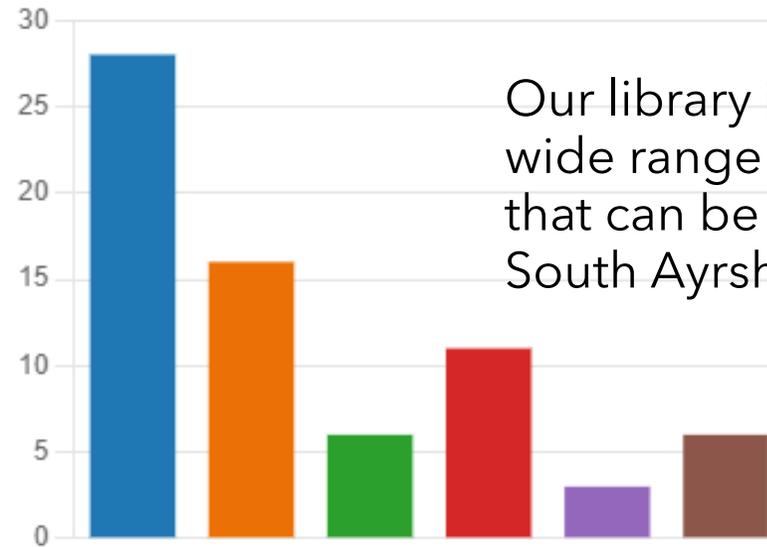


Reading for Enjoyment

Pupils enjoy a wide range of reading. We need to encourage individual interests.

3. I prefer to read

[More Details](#)



Comic books are particularly effective for reluctant readers and can help develop inference skills.

Our library is well stocked with a wide range of books, with more that can be ordered from across South Ayrshire.

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

-- Dr. Seuss



Verbal Communication

Why is Talk an important skill?



It is the primary means of communication in most situations.



It allows us to connect with others easily and quickly.



Convey tone much easier than over messages or email.



Easily share and build on others ideas.

What Talking looks like in the classroom

- + Learning conversations between pupil and teacher
- + Paired discussions
- + Small group discussions
- + Collaborative working
- + Group presentations
- + Solo talks or presentations
- + Whole class discussions
- + Answering questions aloud
- + Building on others' ideas

Everyone will participate in different kinds of talk experiences in all subjects, developing their skills across the curriculum!

Developing Talk Skills at Home



- + Encourage young people to use new words and phrase
- + Talk about each other's day and ask questions.
- + Discuss films, T.V shows or any other family activities.
- + Play word games - wordle, scrabble, hangman, bananagrams etc.
- + Be a supportive audience - listen to presentation practice, school play rehearsals, or even rants about their day!
- + Modelling good listening is just as important as modelling your own communication skills.

Written Communication

Writing



Developing a good understanding of written English is essential as young people progress through the school.



Written literacy has been impacted the most from Covid.



"Text speak" is slowly creeping into written work in the classroom.



Whole school approach and expectation that pupils should be able to use punctuation correctly.

Writing in the Classroom



Short answers.



Note making.



Longer answers with accurate punctuation.



Extended writing in different styles: informative, imaginative, personal, discursive.



Editing and redrafting work.



How can you help improve writing at home?

- + Challenge text speak!
- + Encourage writing in any form: shopping lists, to do lists, diary or journal, e-mail, homework.
- + Model writing whenever possible.
- + Talk about writing - which words have you used that you could upgrade or make better?

Further Resources

- + <https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families/>
- + <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/supporting-literacy-at-home/>