



POLICY RE: BOOK BANDS AND READING AT HOME

At St Mary and St Benedict School we prioritise reading. We are determined that every pupil will learn to read, regardless of their background, needs or abilities.

The bands are organised into two groups:

- **Read Write Inc:** Red(ditties) to Grey- early and developing reader bands
- **KS2 Lime to Ruby** band – confident and experienced reader bands

EYFS and KSI

Children in Reception and KSI who participate in our **RWI programme** will take home a reading book in line with their current phonic awareness and development.

Within the Read Write Inc group we have books ranging from Red-Grey. These are designed to support progress in word reading and comprehension, and books are finely graded based on children's growing knowledge and application of *phonics*, sight vocabulary and overall comprehension. Children read a range of books within each of these bands in order to support understanding, and progress through these bands as and when ready – for many children this is termly, depending, of course, on their overall reading ability.

All of our Nursery children take home a picture book to be shared during story times at home.

Children in Reception and KSI who participate in our **RWI programme** will also take home a reading book which will be labelled, 'please read this book with me.' These are additional picture books for an adult to read to a child. These texts include: stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction carefully chosen for reading to develop pupils' vocabulary, language comprehension and love of reading.

In line with RWI guidance, the children will also take home a paper copy of the text they have been reading within their group. This will be every 3 days or every 5 days depending on which group they are in. (3 day/5 day timetable)

KS2

Within the bands from Lime onwards, progression is different. By this stage, children have fully acquired the skills needed to read words individually, so could probably decode the words within any text presented. So, books are organised based on progression in reading stamina, content, themes and overall interest level, as opposed to word reading skills, thus supporting children with reading age-appropriate material.

From Lime band onwards, children will be reading books at the same band for a good while. This is to ensure they read a wide range of texts, authors and genres, including:

- British and World fiction
- Classic texts
- Contemporary fiction and
- A range of non-fiction material,

reflecting the increased demands of the 2014 National Curriculum for English.

Our KS2 Bands are as follows:

Lime (Y2 transition/shelf for WT Y3)

Copper (brown expected Y3 standard)

Silver (national grey- expected Y4 standard)

Sapphire (dark blue- expected Y5 standard)

Ruby (dark red- expected Y6 standard)

We do appreciate that children like to read lots of different books. To facilitate this, children reading books from Lime band onwards will be given the opportunity to **choose an extra book from a previous band**. So, if they want to re-read an old com-fy favourite, they can do so, alongside reading age-appropriate banded books.

At SMSB we have high expectations for all of our pupils. Whilst our aim is for all children to be reading age appropriate books, sometimes children from KS2 may continue to access our RWI book bag books dependent upon reading ability.