

Our Approach

to Reading



Northern Ambition
Academies Trust

Ambition • Bravery • Respect

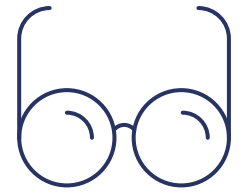
Our Approach to Reading



At Northern Ambition Academies Trust, we believe that the teaching of reading is integral to a young person's understanding and appreciation of the world around them; a platform that allows our learners to see beyond what they know, share in cultural experiences and develop the vocabulary they need to effectively express themselves.

Our reading offer across all schools, strives to foster a lifelong love of reading and put reading at the heart of our curriculum. We cultivate the behaviours that all learners will need to be discerning readers as they read frequently and widely to develop into fluent, enthusiastic and critical readers.





At NAAT, young people learn to read in order to access all other areas of the curriculum. Reading for pleasure sparks imagination and hearing stories read to them and with them, helps to establish a sustained emotional relationship with books. Through high quality texts, which reflect not only the curriculum offer, but enrich their cultural capital, learners in all schools will have an 'emotional experience but grounded in knowledge' (Lemov and Badillo, 2020).

We believe that reading opens up a new world for our learners; gives opportunity to explore new thinking, visit places they have yet to travel to and meet new characters from a range of different cultures.

Our shared vision is underpinned by an understanding that reading improves our cognitive skills; it increases our knowledge, extends our vocabulary, broadens our perspective, requires focus and reduces stress.



In each of our Academies, we:

- Place reading and books at the heart of the curriculum.
- Recognise that being able to read well is a life skill for all young people.
- Believe that every child can learn to read with the right teaching and support.
- Acknowledge that not all young people will have had the opportunity to develop a love for reading at home, so this has to be taught and encouraged at school.
- Build time for all young people to read.
- Give all the opportunity to meet published authors and illustrators to help contextualise reading.
- Celebrate reading achievement for all learners.
- Establish 'Read to Succeed' in partnership with the Castleford Tigers' Foundation.
- Develop a coherent whole-trust strategy for promoting reading for pleasure.
- Believe that every adult in our schools should be an advocate for reading.
- Devote time to training staff so they are equipped to support every young person's enjoyment of reading.
- Involve parents and the wider community to ensure the culture of reading that the Trust has developed, extends into the home.



Reading experiences the Trust offers across all of its schools:

Early Years/Primary Phase

Ruth Miskin's 'Read Write Inc' phonics programme to ensure that every young person has excellent foundations for reading and writing.

Reading Champions - every school in our Trust has designated reading Champions who support the development of reading skills for their peers.

Support for adult literacy, through workshops and online training sessions.

Reading clubs and shared reading experiences between different year groups.

Book corners in all primary classrooms to encourage reading for pleasure.

Parent workshops, reading events, and events linking to National Reading activities; World Book Day, Roald Dahl Day, National Storytelling Week and many more!

Opportunity for our young people to help shape the reading offer through regular and focused pupil interviews and 'Book Talk'.

Book clubs and reading challenges for home and school.

Well stocked libraries which are regularly updated to reflect young people's interests and curriculum developments.

Secondary Phase

'Reading for pleasure' embeds our form time reading programme where pupils experience a calm and purposeful start to the day by reading meaningful, thought-provoking material which underpins our Academy values.

Emerging readers are supported and nurtured through bespoke intervention including, 'Rise and Read' intervention and the personalised reading programme, Lexia.

Regular visits to the local library.

Vocabulary Vault – this whole school strategy exposes pupils to Tier 2 & 3 vocabulary, aiding their reading comprehension.

'Reading for Academic Success' equips each and every pupil with the ability to read proficiently in readiness for their GCSEs.

'Drop Everything and Read' sessions enrich our curriculum.

'Reading in the Real World' epitomises our commitment to valuing reading as a life skill. Our students are supported to overcome their own personal reading barriers and understand the impact that reading can have upon post-16 prospects. Reading is a building block to personal success and we aim to ensure that our young people are able navigate their next steps with confidence.



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01977 664555

information@northernambition.org.uk

northernambition.org.uk