



Literacy Policy

Intent

At Stockport Academy, we want our students to be excellent communicators. It is essential that students are taught the skills of effective reading, writing and oracy in order for them to achieve their full potential as well as to support them as they communicate with, and make sense of, the world around them.

Literacy is fundamental for success in school and later life. Students who cannot read, write and communicate effectively are highly unlikely to access the challenging academic curriculum in secondary school and are more likely to have poor educational outcomes across all subjects.¹

The term 'literacy', therefore, may be better understood as the skills required for communication. These are skills that are used in every subject and extra-curricular activity at the Academy and as such it is the responsibility of all teachers at Stockport Academy to model and teach these skills effectively.

Implementation

We will support all students in their skills of communication by:

- Instructing students in how to communicate well in their specific subjects;
- Expecting oral contributions in class to have the expected formality of an academic environment;
- Teaching vocabulary in a meaningful way, including the use of Bedrock Vocabulary;
- Modelling what effective talk sounds like in their subject;
- Making sure that challenging, academic texts are available and familiar to students;
- Developing students to become strategic readers by teaching reading strategies specific to their subjects;

¹ Ricketts, J., Sperring, R and Nation, K. (2014). Educational attainment in poor comprehenders. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5. P. 445

- Teaching, along with the English department, explicit writing skills that will be built on throughout the school;
- Expecting high-quality presentation in written work;
- Recognising and referring students who require additional support to make expected progress; and
- Supporting teachers with ongoing CPD opportunities with regards to literacy in their subjects, particularly with the ongoing focus on vocabulary instruction.

Reading

At Stockport Academy, we believe that a love of reading is of immense benefit to our students, both academically and personally. Reading is a way for our students to explore the world. We want them to question the minds of great (and not so great) individuals and understand the experiences and bias, the insights and perspectives of the people who have come before us. We believe that we have a moral imperative to open this opportunity up for all our students. In order to do this, we need to ensure that students can decode texts, understand them and enjoy them.

In light of recent events, the literacy team at Stockport Academy are focused on ensuring that we do everything we can to close the 'reading gap'. While there has always been a number of students who have had reading ages below their chronological ages, students have not had the same level of intervention and practice during the pandemic. Our aim is to continue to see improved reading ages by the end of the school year 2021-2022 at the same level that we would have expected prior to the pandemic.

In order to do this, there will be a continued focus on reading in classrooms and in form time, the latter providing a springboard for students to explore the world of books independently. We will increase links with parents, using some of our digital platforms to share booklists and reading events and opportunities. We hope to return to welcoming authors to our school, as well as trips to the local

library. Alongside this, there will be bespoke, one to one and small group provision for students who need extra support in their reading journey.

Writing

While reading provides a way for our students to explore the world, writing provides a way for them to become a part of the narrative. Writing allows individuals to share their own perspectives and influence others. We want all our students to have this ability and motivation and will encourage them to confidently write, expressing themselves in the best way they can. Academically, extended writing is vital to success in most disciplines and, similarly to reading ability, we want to build on these skills to allow all our students to feel confident as they approach examinations and coursework.

Work on extended writing has begun, focusing on using ‘The Writing Revolution’ as a starting point for our whole school approach to writing. Over the next year, there will be greater focus across all subjects on the principles within the ‘The Writing Revolution’.

Impact

The Literacy co-ordinator is responsible for the implementation of the literacy approach.

SLT and the literacy co-ordinator will look for evidence of the teaching of literacy skills when conducting lesson observations and record these in the teacher’s profile.

Evidence for the success of this approach will be evident in the following ways:

- Improved reading ages across Key Stage 3;
- Improved mid-year and end of year exam results;
- Improved communication will be demonstrated within work scrutiny; and
- A reading culture will be evident around the school.