

West Park School

Library Policy 2025- 2026



Date approved by Governors:	
Policy Owner:	Ciara Downs
Date of last Review:	August 2025
Date of next Review:	August 2026

West Park School
Library Policy

The library at West Park is central to the school's teaching and learning. It also has a role in the social development of pupils. This encompasses promoting the love of literature and reading as well as interaction between pupils. The school has made a conscious decision to retain the name 'Library' rather than the more common Learning Resource Centre. This seems to us the only title which embraces all the functions outlined above.

The Aim of the School Library

The library supports the overall aims and objectives of the school, to encourage achievement at all levels, putting pupils first at all times. The mission of the school library is to foster and encourage a love reading, inspire curiosity and assist in the development of lifelong learning.

Objectives

The library will:

- ✓ help to create independent learners
- ✓ support curricular and non-curricular activities
- ✓ encourage the development of an enjoyment of reading
- ✓ provide opportunities to develop wider reading and regular reading habits

Pupils will:

- ✓ feel confident to find and use resources for themselves
- ✓ be happy to ask for help when required
- ✓ be supported to develop their reading in line with their ability and interests

To achieve this, the following must be provided:

Staffing

- ✓ A full-time professionally qualified librarian.
- ✓ At least one library assistant working during the school day during term time.
(All staff should have relevant job descriptions.)

Training

- ✓ Staff will be given the opportunity to undertake training from outside agencies to keep their knowledge and skills up to date.
- ✓ Staff will take part in appropriate training provided by the school.

Budget

- ✓ An adequate budget to enable the provision of a book stock and other resources relevant to the needs of the pupils and to the curriculum will be provided.

Liaison/Consultation

- ✓ The librarian will consult individual Heads of Subject/Department on a regular basis to ensure that the library stock accurately reflects curriculum priorities and developments.
- ✓ Where possible the librarian may have some input into the delivery of a scheme of work in terms of information skills sessions and/or the provision of appropriate resources (Appendix 2).
- ✓ The librarian contributes to whole school reader development including the development and delivery of the Reading Challenges in consultation with the English Department. (Appendices 1 & 2).

- ✓ The librarian will organise the whole school reading week in consultation with the English Department including the development of activities and where appropriate the engagement of outside speakers e.g. authors, poets etc.
- ✓ The librarian will maintain good contacts with other secondary schools, our partner primary schools, the local public and regional library services.

Stock Provision

This will include:

- ✓ A wide range of stock which provides for all ability levels and needs.
- ✓ A comprehensive fiction section.
- ✓ A wide range of non-fiction books which provide appropriate support for the curriculum. Heads of Department should liaise with the library regarding such provision.
- ✓ Resources which encourage pupils to develop extra curricular activities. Staff responsible for organising such activities should liaise with the librarian regarding such provision.

Wherever possible the library will replace stock as recommended by national guidelines.

Please see Appendix 2 for the full Collection Management Policy.

Information Technology

If the library is to act as a Central Resource Centre, it must have:

- ✓ An online Library Management System accessible by all stakeholders via Firefly and the school website (currently AccessIT).
- ✓ An appropriate number of computers linked to the wireless network to allow a more flexible approach to learning.
- ✓ Appropriate software and online sources.
- ✓ Adequate technical support.
- ✓ Appropriate training for the librarian and library assistant(s).

The role of the library to support learning

- ✓ An induction programme will be provided for each Year 7 pupil regarding the use of the library and access to resources.
- ✓ Clear guidance will be provided to enable pupils to locate and use resources. This includes accessing relevant websites and other online resources.
- ✓ The librarian will liaise with the English Department and SENDCO with regard to strategies which can be employed to support the development of reading at all levels including those with higher reading ages and those with additional needs.
- ✓ The library will be used where appropriate to support the development of literacy.

- ✓ The librarian will liaise with all heads of departments to establish the support most appropriate to their area e.g. book boxes, information skills integrated into the curriculum and introductory lessons etc.

Availability of the library and its resources

- ✓ The library should provide a pleasant, safe environment where pupils and staff (both teaching and associate) can learn and relax appropriately. Everyone should feel welcome in the library.
- ✓ All books and IT equipment will be available to all pupils and staff.
- ✓ The library will be available to pupils before and after school as well as during the whole school day. It should only be closed in exceptional circumstances e.g. staff training where this cannot be undertaken out of hours.
- ✓ Pupils can all access the library for one break time every day. The time is divided according to age with Years 7 and 8 using the library during the first break and Years 9, 10 and 11 having access during second break.
- ✓ Priority use of computers will always be given to pupils with school work to do.
- ✓ Staff can book use of the library in advance. The library is not to be used as an ICT facility. Computers in the library are for information retrieval, and completion of school work, wherever possible to be used in conjunction with other resources.
- ✓ The library should not be used for functions which will prevent it being accessible to staff and pupils – such as a classroom, tutor base, detention area. **It is first and foremost a library.**

Borrowing

Pupils in Years 7 – 11 may borrow 2 resources for up to 4 weeks at a time. The resources may be renewed twice only.

Pupils may also borrow up to 2 eBooks from the Wheelers ePlatform which is integrated into the AccessIT library management system as well as via the ePlatform app.

Staff may borrow up to 10 resources for personal use at any one time. Teachers can have up to 50 items if part of a boxed loan collection. All resources are booked out for 4 weeks unless they are part of a short-term loan collection.

Short term loans can be made for 1 week or 1 day as appropriate.

Primary pupils may use the library by arrangement with the librarian and may borrow 2 resources for up to 4 weeks at a time under the same policy guidance as West Park pupils. There will be an agreement drawn up between the primary liaison teacher and the librarian to determine how the process will operate between the schools.

Classroom Book Boxes

Teachers may borrow class room collections of resources for use as a part of a scheme of work. These are usually loaned for 4 weeks at a time. Full details of requirements (year group, ability, proposed outcomes) should be given to the librarian in advance to ensure that the resource box accurately reflects need.

Overdue items

- ✓ Lists of overdue items are produced electronically and are circulated on a weekly basis via form tutor emails and emails to pupils. Pupils are encouraged to see the librarian regarding any issues or problems regarding their loans. At present there are no charges for the late return of books.
- ✓ Letters to parents are generated electronically for overdue items which are more than 21 days late. Pupils will not be allowed to borrow any further resources until any late resources are returned.
- ✓ Any charges for lost or damaged resources will be applied according to the school charging policy. Payment will be via Parent Pay.

Charging Policy

Damaged and lost books – Pupils are encouraged to keep their library books clean and dry. The library staff supply free plastic bags to reduce damage from spillages and wet shoes etc. The bags supplied work on the ‘bag for life’ principle whereby free bags will be supplied on return of the old one, whatever its condition.

If a book has been reported lost or returned damaged beyond expected wear and tear for its age, the pupil will be asked for the cost of replacement and invoiced accordingly via ParentPay. Where possible older stock will be charged at the cost of a second-hand replacement (usually gauged by the Amazon.co.uk website) and a part payment will be agreed based on age and number of times issued.

- ✓ Replacement cost for new stock will be based on the current published price. A suitable replacement for the book supplied by the pupil would also be acceptable by negotiation with the librarian.
- ✓ Finance will keep a record of any payments made and update the librarian regularly.
- ✓ Paperback Jackets -The majority of the library’s paperback stock is protected with a plastic paperback jacket. Any exceptions to this will be noted on the pupil’s record at the time of issue.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Appendix 1

Supporting Reader Development

The library provides a wide range of fiction and non-fiction appropriate to the interests and ability of our pupils. The stock selection policy reflects the need to provide both familiar and new writers in order to support the transition process. The library will provide access to a range of quality authors appropriate to the age range and the opportunity to be introduced to new writers and styles.

The stock will reflect both classic and modern classic literature as well as providing access to fiction which bridges the gap between teenage and adult fiction. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 will be encouraged to select appropriate to their age and interests from the Y10+ collection in the

library. Access to suitable biography and travel writing titles will also be available in the non-fiction section. The Y10+ collection is clearly labelled with yellow labels. These titles may only be borrowed by pupils in years 7 -9 with written parental permission.

Clear reads for those with a lower reading age or reluctant readers are distinguished by red labels. There is also a specific selection of Clear Reads published by Barrington Stoke, which are aimed at dyslexic pupils. These titles are selected as being of high interest to teenagers but reflect a lower reading age. Pupils in lower sets are encouraged to access these titles as appropriate but are not restricted from borrowing from other areas of the stock.

A collection of eBooks is available via the Wheeler's ePlatform which is integrated into the AccessIT catalogue. This can be accessed by downloading the ePlatform app or using the AccessIT web app.

Supporting individual reader development in lessons

Pupils in years 7 & 8 all follow a reading programme whereby they are individually monitored during fortnightly library lessons to select appropriate titles according to their reading level and level of reluctance. Pupils are monitored using targets and fortnightly conversations regarding their reading. Pupils have an individual record of these conversations with clear targets for the next meeting. These sessions are led by the library staff and teacher. Any allocated teaching assistants or cover supervisors can also get involved in this process if appropriate.

A number of strategies are provided in order to maintain, encourage and develop a reading habit amongst the pupil population. The following approaches are regularly used:

- ✓ Reading Challenges including an introduction to a range of writers from different genres. This will be differentiated for all pupils depending on age and ability.
- ✓ Individual pupils are encouraged to request particular authors, genres and titles for library. The library is their resource and they are encouraged to support its development.
- ✓ A range of genre displays in the library which are updated regularly.
- ✓ Regular reading once a week for the whole school during form time.
- ✓ Book Fest, a reading focused week for the whole school with author visits, associated activities and reading promotion.
- ✓ Year 7 and 8 pupils have a fortnightly library lesson to support their reading development and introduce them to a range of writers.
- ✓ Bookbuzz school reading programme for all year 7 and 8 pupils, specially developed by the Book Trust to help get young people into reading and embed a reading for pleasure culture within school.
- ✓ Opportunities for teachers to bring Years 9 and 10 to the library for specific library activities or select new reading materials.
- ✓ The online catalogue (AccessIT) identifies fiction by popular themes, plus reflecting top 10 titles borrowed and a regular themed reading lists on the home page.

- ✓ Pupils are encouraged to post reviews on the catalogue of the books they have borrowed from the library.
- ✓ Wheelers ePlatform collection – integrated into AccessIT and via the E-Platform app.
- ✓ Author/poet/workshop leader visits.
- ✓ Themed reading displays in the library and on Firefly.
- ✓ Subject Takeover Weeks – different curriculum areas take over the library displays to focus on their reading choices and subject related materials.
- ✓ A weekly book club for all ages and abilities, shadowing annual book awards – Carnegies for both Writing and Illustration, Derbyshire Schools' Book Award (DSBA), SLA Information Book Award, Royal Society Science Book Prize, and Bookseller Young Adult Book Award.
- ✓ Reading Club for Year 6 pupils to support transition and offer keen readers the opportunity to access from a wider library stock.
- ✓ Liaise with primary schools to promote reading activities, created by our most academically weak and vulnerable year 8 literacy pupils.
- ✓ Opportunities for older pupils to take part in the National Teen Book Award during the summer term.
- ✓ Year 9 reading mentors to partner year 7 pupils during registration to listen, encourage and support our young reluctant readers. This is done as part of pupil's Duke of Edinburgh award.
- ✓ Opportunities for local primary schools to visit the school library with their Year 6 pupils.
- ✓ Reading promotion lessons for English Department as required. The librarian will put together a range of suitable titles to promote reading for a particular group or year group.

Appendix 2

Collection Management Policy

The School Library is not an archive and the material held within it should be both current and reflect the needs of the curriculum and school clientele. At the heart of the stock should be a requirement to promote wider reading and reading for pleasure to all library members. All stock will undergo an annual stock check to ensure that the catalogue correctly reflects current holdings. A report will be made of all stock withdrawn and losses in each section of the library.

Compliance with the Equality Act 2010

Stock selected for the library will reflect the principles of diversity, equality and inclusion as specified by the 2010 Act. These include, but are not limited to, age, disability, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The librarian will adopt an inclusive approach when selecting and developing the collection; this includes reflecting the age and ability range of pupils.

[Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/36362/equality-act-2010-guidance.pdf)

The library will not knowingly hold resources that are discriminatory or inappropriate. Parents should recognise that challenging content or adult themes will not be censored or excluded, but could be assessed and labelled according to the procedure for challenged books. See below.

Library Access Policy Fiction and Non-Fiction

West Park School's students vary greatly in age, maturity level, life experience, interests, and ability, and as such, every resource in the school library will not be suitable for every pupil. While librarians will encourage and guide pupils toward suitable resources, they cannot gauge suitability of every resource for every individual student. West Park School Library believes that a library collection of curated materials is one of the safest and most reliable ways to access information, and we support our students' freedom of access to information and right to read, as established by British legislation and IFLA and CILIP ethical frameworks.

The library staff may guide students toward what is deemed age-appropriate reading through recommendations and the use of library collections.

Library staff will allocate all items to either general stock for all pupils or the KS4 collection for resources not suitable for younger readers unless guardians provide written permission to request this. This includes fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels and manga formats.

West Park School always encourages parents and guardians to engage with their children's reading. If parents believe a resource that their child has brought home is unsuitable, they should ask their child to return it to the library and we are happy to help students find something more suitable. We welcome dialogue about book choice and also accept book recommendation requests which will be considered according to selection criteria.

Selection and Provision of Non-Fiction Materials

The stock will be selected by the librarian in collaboration with individual subject specialists. The main aim of the non-fiction section is to complement and enhance the work being delivered in the classrooms. Book stock over ten years old will normally be withdrawn from the library shelves, dependent on the discretion of the librarian who may consult with teaching staff on such matters. Books under review for disposal will be identified as such by a guide date written inside the front cover. Items over ten years old may be retained if they satisfy the requirements of project loans. However, these subject areas will be given priority for updated stock to be purchased, where such titles exist.

Selection and Provision of Fiction

The fiction stock should reflect the reading of the day. Multiple copies of popular titles will be provided where demand merits, subject to financial constraints. A cross section of classic books for young people will also be maintained and annotated where necessary according to the *Challenged Books* policy (see below).

Fiction should reflect diverse cultures, subjects and interests and should be appropriate to the age of the borrowers. Consideration will be given to providing materials suitable to all literacy levels including provision of high interest, low reading age materials and graphic novels. Materials more suited to the upper age group (Y10+) should be identified as such in the library catalogue and colour coded accordingly on the shelves. Requests from younger pupils to borrow items from this range will be discussed with the pupil and may include a request for parental permission to read from this collection.

Although it is reasonable to expect 'modern classic' texts to be present in the collection, the fiction section should be bright and attractive – reflecting popular culture written by current authors. The stock will undergo yearly monitoring and replacement. A title which has not been issued for over three years may be withdrawn from the main library for storage or deletion from the catalogue dependent upon age and potential use in the future. Stock withdrawal will be at the discretion of the librarian, dependent on the nature of the work and the standing of the author. Further criteria for keeping an item may revolve around the use made of the work by teaching staff, for example its continued use as a class reader or pertinence to the curriculum.

Deselection Criteria

Materials are deselected (or "weeded") from the library on a rolling basis when they no longer meet the selection criteria and space is needed for new titles. This is often due to lack of use, changes in the curriculum, outdated or inaccurate information, overall condition, and/or lack of appeal to user groups.

After deselection, materials are, in order of priority:

- ✓ Given to school staff for classroom use.
- ✓ Given to students for individual use.
- ✓ Given to school staff for individual use.

- ✓ Donated to charity.
- ✓ Recycled or otherwise disposed of.

Acquisitions and Donations

Materials are purchased in line with school finance procedures with the best price sought from multiple distributors/suppliers. If appropriate, timeliness/availability of stock may take priority over cost.

The library welcomes donations where they meet selection criteria. Otherwise donated items will be given away or disposed of as in the process for deselected library stock.

Procedure for Challenged Books

There is a rising trend around challenged books in other countries, with a record increase in book banning and censorship in recent years. There is also increased sensitivity around older texts that are not necessarily deemed acceptable by modern standards.

Books are being challenged due to the nature of their content, attitude, and often outdated language and terminology. They may also be challenged because of their representations of the LGBTQ+ community, race, ethnicity, culture or gender.

The procedure for challenged books will be as follows:

- ✓ If a pupil or parent has a concern about a book, they can direct it to the librarian, who will take each challenge seriously and assess the book for suitability.
 - ✓ If necessary, the book will be moved to a more appropriate location (e.g older reads).
- And/or
- ✓ Labelled with a book plate acknowledging content and providing a range of questions to encourage wider thinking and awareness.

Books will not be removed entirely from the library in compliance with CILIP guidance on censorship.

The current book stock will be reviewed annually and known titles will have book plates added to acknowledge their content and promote discussion. This will be an ongoing process.

The library will review stock annually to ensure compliance with this policy.