

Literacy Short Course

All pupils in 1st year students participate in programmes to improve their vocabulary, literacy skills and their confidence. The following programmes are part of our literacy course- Accelerated Reader, the Vocabulary Enrichment Programme (VEP), Toe-by-toe and CSI Literacy.

The Vocabulary Enrichment Programme (VEP) is delivered to all 1st year students to help improve their ability to read and comprehend information. The programme supports the development of oral vocabulary skills and the development of new vocabulary. Following the programme students understand the link between enhanced vocabulary skills and enhanced learning. As well as improving vocabulary skills, we see that pupils also gain confidence and motivation to learn.

The Accelerated Reader Programme is delivered to all 1st year students. It is an online computer program that monitors pupils' reading progress. Pupils take online reading tests in September (STAR tests) and then at least four other times during the school year. These tests assess pupils' reading skills and identify their reading age and progress over the year. The results of these tests are shared with the pupil and recorded in their school journal. The literacy teacher guides all pupils to set personal reading targets to improve their reading age and track their success. Pupils are guided to choose books from our school library, which are appropriate for their own reading age and they read these books during directed time in school and at home. While in school, pupils visit the school library formally, with their class, every week and informally during designated lunchtimes.

Some students in 1st year students need extra help with their reading, therefore our school delivers more intensive and individualised interventions to help them to improve. **The CSI Literacy programme** is an intervention delivered to students who find reading difficult. During this programme the teacher will teach reading in a fun, interactive way. The students will practice this reading in a cooperative learning activity, usually with the support of an audio text to help build vocabulary.

The Toe-by-Toe programme is an intervention delivered to students who find reading difficult, this includes weak readers who struggle to decode or those with dyslexic difficulties. It teaches basic literacy skills to learners of all ages, using a phonics-based method. The students are worked with daily for 20 minutes over approximately five to six months.