

HELP CHILDREN FIND THE RIGHT BOOK FOR THEM

School libraries can take many forms - a dedicated room, a corridor, corners in classrooms. Whatever space you have, it needs to be appealing and accessible so that children can find what they want and are encouraged to come back again and again.

LIBRARY SIGNAGE

Use a dyslexia-friendly font and where possible, use dark text on a light, but not white, background to allow sufficient contrast. Suggested dyslexia-friendly fonts are:

- Opendyslexic font
- Dyslexie font
- Atkinson Hyperlegible

Avoid laminating signs if you can - the reflections can cause readability issues, and it's better for the environment.

DISPLAYING BOOKS

- Displaying book covers 'face on' is the most appealing way to show off your book stock, but also the most space intensive. When arranging your library ensure you allow some space for face on displays.
- Display by colour - for an added impact display you can find all your books which are the same colour and group them together or create a rainbow of books for Pride month.
- Themed displays are always popular. Check out Literacy Hive's The Literacy Year for some great ideas. Also keep an eye on what's happening on Netflix or at the cinema - *Heartstopper* is one of the most successful young adult books thanks to the Netflix series.
- Peer-to-peer reviews and recommendations are a great way to start book chat and for students to see what their peers are reading. They can be displayed using shelf edge displays, on a noticeboard or as a bookmark inside the book.

ORGANISING BOOKS

Organising books by genre can help students find books quickly and easily. Involve pupils in choosing the genres, and remember to add in topics and themes relevant to your school throughout the year.

Suggested genres:

- Adventure
- Animals
- Fantasy
- Fairytales
- Graphic Novels
- History
- Humour
- Mystery
- Realistic Fiction
- Scary Stories
- Science Fiction
- Sports

You can mix non-fiction and fiction together and display them by genre, or you could use genres for fiction, and apply Dewey classification to non-fiction. What not ask pupils how they'd like the books in their library to be arranged?

Download our handy genre shelf labels: readforgood.org/library-resources



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