📚 Reading at The Polygon School

Reading is central to everything we do at The Polygon.

We believe that reading is not just a skill—it's a gateway to opportunity, wellbeing, and personal growth. Teenagers who read are statistically more likely to access higher-paid jobs and explore more of the world as adults. Reading for pleasure supports mental health, literacy development, empathy, identity exploration, and cognitive growth.

🌟 Our Vision

We aim to inspire every pupil to become a confident, fluent reader who reads for pleasure. We do this through a rich, inclusive reading culture and targeted support tailored to individual needs.

📖 How We Bring Reading to Life

🏫 Our Library

Our library is a vibrant, pupil-led space filled with up-to-date, relevant texts. We actively seek recommendations from pupils and staff to keep our collection fresh and engaging. Our team stays connected with other schools and authors to ensure we offer the best possible reading experiences.







📚 Recommended Reads

We encourage pupils and staff to share book recommendations through blogs and reading displays. This helps build a culture of reading where opinions and enthusiasm are shared across the school.

🏅 Reading Rewards

Each week, we celebrate our ‘Reader of the Week’—the pupil who has read for the most minutes in school. This recognition helps foster motivation and pride in reading.



📜 Southampton Reading Charter

In September 2025, we achieved the Reading Charter Bronze Award. We’re now proudly working towards the Silver Award, with the Springhill English Hub, to further embed reading across our school.

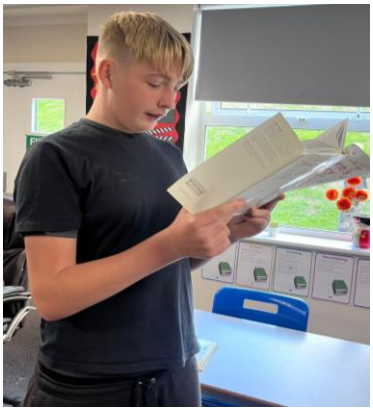
🔤 Building Reading Skills

📘 Reading Fluency

All staff are trained in systematic synthetic phonics to support decoding across the curriculum. Year 7 pupils have daily decoding lessons, and our whole-school weekly “Word of the Week” explores phonemes, syllables, definitions, etymology, synonyms, and antonyms.

📚 Reading Across the Curriculum

Pupils read aloud in lessons to build fluency and confidence. KS3 pupils also have weekly reading lessons focused on enjoyment and oracy, with books carefully chosen to reflect their interests. We have a new KS3 Reading Spine, which can be accessed here.



🧠 Targeted Support

We know that many pupils join us without meeting Key Stage 2 reading expectations. To address this, we assess every pupil on entry, and each subsequent term, to tailor support. Our interventions include:

- **Rapid Plus (Pearson):** Our 1 to 1 intervention with an experienced teacher of reading, Rapid Plus is a series of books and software to help students improve their reading skills and confidence. It covers topics, themes and characters that appeal to KS3 & 4 pupils.
- **Literacy Gold:** An online programme tailored to individual needs, that supports tracking when reading; develops phonological awareness; knowledge of homophones and syllables; and teaches 1000 of the most common words.

Each pupil's pathway is personalised and regularly reviewed to ensure progress.

💬 Join Our Reading Journey

At The Polygon, we believe every pupil is a reader. Whether it's through decoding, fiction, poetry, lyrics or shared recommendations, we're committed to helping our pupils discover the joy and power of reading.