



Library Expectations at The Avenue School

We recognise that pupils at The Avenue School are starting their reading journey at a different point and not all of them have Library skills yet. Our teachers use their judgment to identify pupils who may need extra support to learn and develop those crucial skills. They will be teaching book skills in a familiar, classroom environment and with the right support using books from class home corners or stations.

Once teachers are confident that pupils are ready to generalise some of the book skills in The Avenue Library, they will gradually build those transitions into pupils' programs.

We believe that pupils who are given early exposure to Library visits will learn skills for life which enable them to develop their ability to read a variety of texts in school and beyond the classroom.

During class visits to The Avenue School Library we expect:

- **Quiet voices to be used** - we are constantly modelling the appropriate behaviour in every situation. We know that the Library is the place where we read books using a quiet voice and this is what we would like our pupils to learn.
- **Allowing pupils to search for the book of their choice** - we promote independence and strive to teach independent skills at every opportunity. We offer support and close supervision at all times, making sure our pupils can get the best out of their visit and the book they have chosen during their stay in the Library.
- **All pupils actively respond to the book that is read to them** – we believe that pupils' interactions around books support their language development and improve their comprehension. Our teachers use the Avenue Top Tips for Reading to support early reading responses. Pupils are encouraged to hold a book of their choice, look at pictures, turn pages, locate the title of the book, and answer different BLQs depending on their ability.
- **We use props and visuals** – we promote a culture of reading by bringing the text to life, using props and visuals. In our Library, we can find some puppets, communication boards and book props related to the specific book, displayed on the window. Our teachers use provided materials as needed during their Library session. Props and resources linked to books must be kept in good condition and must not be removed from the library.
- **Small groups visiting the library** – our teachers use their own judgement to group pupils effectively, so they can offer the best possible support and close supervision in the Library. Every class has timetabled 2x 30-minute sessions in the Library every week.
- **Small group Sensory Story** - Bag Books and Irresistible storytelling, if prepared for the session in advance, can be used in the library with the group attending to support pupils' participation
- **We are keeping our Library tidy** - we value the time of our colleagues and the resources that are available for us to use. We keep the library tidy, making sure books are returned to their original places and supervise our pupils to minimise the book destruction. If after the class visit, there is a position that needs to be repaired, please take it to your class and fix it before returning to the school library. If you have pupils in your class who engage with twiddling Blu tack- please plan ahead and do not allow them to take the blue tack from library displays.