



# Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

At Ryecroft C.E Middle School we are creating a love of reading for all our pupils and the adults in school. We have recently introduced a number of initiatives to do this and have more planned for the rest of the year. We understand that some pupils do not enjoy reading and are reluctant to spend their free time doing so. To help address this it is really important that pupils read books which both interest and challenge them.

### How much will my child read during the school day?

According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate (average percentage correct) see the greatest gains. Therefore, your child will have at least 20 minutes set aside for reading during each school day. At Ryecroft this usually happens at the start of every school day but sometimes DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time is allocated during the day. To ensure this time is as productive as possible it is really important that pupils have their reading book with them.

### How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading and discussing books that each of you have read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning and creating a loving relationship between you and your child. Make learning a family affair!

### What if my child does not like reading?

With guidance from the teacher and by selecting appropriate books, even students who say they do not like reading will develop a love of reading.

### Will my child have to read a book I do not want him/her to read?

No. There are many choices of books at your child's level. He/she will never be forced to read a book you find questionable.

### How does the school determine my child's reading level?

Teachers determine your child's reading level in a number of ways: a PIRA Reading test, a reading age estimation from a standardised test or by using their best professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child.

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## UTTOXETER LEARNING TRUST



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### **How can I help my child find books that are interesting to him or her?**

Visit [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) and click Advanced Search. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc.

### **Is it OK for my child to read outside of his/her reading level?**

Just because a child can read the words in a book does not mean the content is appropriate. The interest level of the material must be considered. Interest level is based on content—a book's themes and ideas—and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate.

### **My child already does well in school. Why does he/she need this?**


Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, the child has to practice to develop his or her talent. Bright children, like all children, need to be challenged.

Based on your child's most recent reading test, their current reading level is

If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Miss K. Sargeant**  
**Head of English**