



READING FOR PLEASURE OVERVIEW

Vision

At Radcliffe Primary School, reading for pleasure is a driver for social mobility, cultural capital and academic success. Through carefully chosen, high-quality texts, all children will see themselves reflected in books whilst also developing an understanding of lives, cultures and experiences beyond their own. Our reading spine promotes:

- Diversity of authors, cultures and experiences
- Ambitious vocabulary and language development
- British Values and protected characteristics
- Positive role models and aspiration
- Empathy, resilience and wellbeing
- Reading stamina and lifelong reading habits

Our reading spine has been developed carefully, taking our school demographic into account. By providing an ambitious, carefully sequenced reading curriculum, it enables us to:

- Build pupils' vocabulary and background knowledge through quality literature.
- Promote reading for pleasure and regular book talk.
- Develop cultural capital through exposure to diverse experiences and perspectives.
- Ensure all pupils can access challenging and meaningful texts regardless of socioeconomic background.
- Creates opportunities for discussion, empathy and critical thinking.

Diversity of Authors

At Radcliffe Primary School, our reading spine includes:

- British, American and international authors
- Muslim, Black, neurodivergent and female voices
- Authors from a range of cultural backgrounds
- Contemporary and classic children's literature



READING FOR PLEASURE OVERVIEW

Year group	Text	Author	Themes	British Values	Rationale
Reception	The Colour Monster	Anna Llenas	Emotions, wellbeing, self-awareness	Mutual Respect	These texts help children develop emotional literacy, celebrate individuality and build positive relationships as they begin their school journey.
	Everybody Welcome	Patricia Hegarty	Belonging, diversity, inclusion	Tolerance, Mutual Respect	
	We're All Wonders	R.J. Palacio	Kindness, acceptance, empathy	Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect	
Year 1	The Proudest Blue	Ibtihaj Muhammad	Identity, belonging, respect	Mutual Respect, Tolerance	These texts allow children explore belonging, celebrating differences and understanding others.
	Julian is a Mermaid	Jessica Love	Self-expression, acceptance	Individual Liberty, Respect	
	Beegu	Alexis Deacon	Friendship, kindness, inclusion	Mutual Respect	
Year 2	Last Stop on Market Street	Matt de la Peña	Community, gratitude	Respect, Responsibility	These texts support aspiration in a community where children may have limited experiences beyond their locality.
	Grace and Family	Mary Hoffman	Family, diversity	Mutual Respect	
	Look Up!	Nathan Bryon	Aspiration, STEM, perseverance	Individual Liberty	
Year 3	Leon and the Place Between	Angela McAllister	Courage, imagination	Individual Liberty	These texts develop empathy and global awareness whilst promoting pupil voice.
	The Boy at the Back of the Class	Onjali Q. Raúf	Refugees, empathy, kindness	Tolerance, Democracy	
	Greta and the Giants	Zoë Tucker	Environment, activism	Democracy, Responsibility	
Year 4	Varjak Paw	S.F. Said	Courage, resilience	Individual Liberty	These texts offer representation of Muslim voices and develop emotional literacy.
	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Kate DiCamillo	Love, loss, compassion	Respect	
	Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet	Zanib Mian	Identity, humour, belonging	Tolerance, Mutual Respect	
Year 5	The Explorer	Katherine Rundell	Teamwork, resilience	Democracy, Respect	These texts allow children to encounter powerful discussions around equality, discrimination and social justice.
	A Kind of Spark	Elle McNicoll	Neurodiversity, inclusion	Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty	
	Journey to Jo'burg	Beverley Naidoo	Equality, justice	Democracy, Rule of Law	
Year 6	Refugee	Alan Gratz	Migration, conflict, hope	Tolerance, Respect	These texts help to prepare pupils for secondary school through rich themes, ethical discussion and complex social issues.
	Boy Everywhere	A.M. Dassu	Refugees, resilience, identity	Mutual Respect, Democracy	
	Wonder	R.J. Palacio	Kindness, inclusion, acceptance	Respect, Individual Liberty	