



St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai – Muhaisnah

READING POLICY

Written by:	Reading Team	Reviewed:	January 2019
Endorsed by:	SLT	Next Review:	September 2019
Approved by:	Board of Governors		



Reading Policy

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that we at St Mary's Catholic High School Muhaisnah work to promote reading in the UAE, to create a generation of book lovers able to enjoy, interact, evaluate and critique text at a high level.

In line with the vision to consolidate the UAE as a global capital of culture, bring about lifelong behavioural change and to develop reading habits that enable our students to compete in a knowledge based society and become life-long learners.

Reading is a vital skill that will support children's learning across the whole curriculum. As a school, we will ensure that our children are taught to read with fluency, accuracy and understanding through a variety of discreet and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Above all, we want children in our school to become enthusiastic, independent and reflective readers. Essentially, we want children to enjoy reading.

In order for our children to fulfill their potential in reading we need as much parental support as possible and our aim, with this policy, is to demonstrate how school and home can work together.

Our Teaching Philosophy

The development of reading cannot be seen in isolation from writing, speaking and listening/drama. The best readers are the best writers - we read as writers and write as readers! Strategies for writing, speaking and listening/drama therefore form an integral part of this reading policy.

In our school, we will strive to give pupils a stimulating environment, where reading materials are presented in an attractive and inviting way. In all lessons we create an environment that stimulates the generation of ideas from texts where all ideas are accepted and valued.

Teachers will act as role models in their enthusiasm for both reading and writing in all subjects.

Aims

'We shouldn't teach great books we should teach a great love of reading' B.F. Skinner

We will develop children's reading within an integrated programme of writing and speaking and listening/drama.

To ensure that children are given quality reading experiences and strategies are explicitly taught across the curriculum wherever possible.

Our expected outcomes for reading are to:



- Instil children with a love of reading that lasts for their lifetime, share with them an enthusiasm for children's literature and help children to recognise the value of reading as a life skill.
- Encourage children to become enthusiastic and reflective readers by introducing them to good quality books, from a variety of cultures and disciplines in a range of styles and formats.
- Develop our children's understanding of a variety of text types including non-fiction, fiction, poetry and drama.
- Develop children's confidence, fluency, and independence when reading for different purposes.
- Develop children's abilities to reflect on and have an interest in what they have read and the language and punctuation choices made by the author.
- Use a variety of methodologies including drama, debate and role-play, to immerse children in the text.
- Ensure our children have sound phonic awareness and have an understanding of the many strategies for reading new texts.
- Create opportunities for reading e texts through online books and reading materials to develop skills for interacting with e-texts.
- Fully involve parents as ambassadors for reading with their children and to recognise their role in creating good reading habits with their children.
- Ensure the library has high quality books for both Arabic and English readers, with a mix of:
 - scheme books for developing key vocabulary and systematic development of reading, known as Daily and Guided Reading books
 - books to read for pleasure.

Methodologies and routines:

- Students will be given the chance to systematically build their skills and read scheme books at their level (Daily Readers) in FS and KS1. These will be borrowed from the library.
- After signing the parent agreement form, all students will have the opportunity to borrow library books. During PEP time, breaktime and after school times the library will be open for borrowing.
- Special events such as Book Character day, World book day, DEAR days etc will be planned and carried out to enhance the enjoyment of reading and raise the profile in the school.
- Guided reading will be timetabled during the English classes
- All teachers will be trained in how to teach reading skills across the curriculum.
- Good reading habits will be recognised and rewarded.
- E-Texts will be provided through the Pearson online learning platform, and independent research activities in lessons using the tablets or the student's own device.
- Teachers will allocate books to students and link the e-texts to lessons wherever possible to encourage home school links.
 - Parents will be encouraged to come in for workshops and to read with children on a volunteer basis.
 - The library will be timetabled for students.