



Reading for Pleasure at KS2: Creating impactful social reading experiences

Current challenges around reading for pleasure

Our research shows that children's reading enjoyment declines between the ages of 7 and 11.

"Love reading": by age (1)



Our recent survey highlighted that almost 7 in 10 teachers (69%)** are seeking additional resources and/ or support for reading for pleasure.

What is social reading?

Simply put, it's children interacting with others around books.

What that can look like:

- Informal book talk
- Peer recommendations
- Being in a welcoming and book-friendly classroom

The impact of sociable reading experiences for children

Be a part of something

Core and central pillar of children's intrinsic reading motivation. When reading feels shared, it becomes more meaningful.

'See it to be it'

Reading becomes accepted through observation and imitation. When classmates recommend books or show excitement, it signals that reading matters.

Experienced shared feelings

Laughing at a line, gasping at a twist, or crying together at a scene builds emotional memory. Reading becomes tied to joy, empathy, and human connection.



Top tips to implement this in your classroom

1. Protect time for reading and talking about books. Encourage peer-to-peer and pupil-to-teacher discussions about books to showcase different interpretations and bring fuller meaning to the stories.
2. Buddy-up children from different year groups to read the same book as each other.
3. Remove the pressure from reading. Return to the fun, sociable and rich experiences that reading purely for enjoyment brings to children.
4. Have a range of books on the tables so children can utilise the small pockets of time throughout the day to read – like before registration and after lunch.
5. Update your book nook (or create one!). Make it really inviting and full of different book formats and genres to suit all your pupils.
6. Create a “waiting list” for your pupils’ most popular books and encourage pupils to recommend books to each other.
7. Create a way for pupils to keep a record of the books they have read, focusing on giving the books a simple star rating and noting whether they finished it or not (crucially, allowing them to return books they’re not enjoying).
8. Ringfence funding to support access to diverse and accessible books.
9. Don’t reinvent the wheel! Use resources available to you to supplement your plans, such as [BookTrust’s Book Finder](#) and [Bookbuzz Primary](#).

