

Reader Leader

A graphic element consisting of several curved lines in various colors (yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, blue, green) that resemble the pages of an open book.

Reading mentoring scheme



“The Reader Leader programme is my favourite reading intervention.

Weaker readers often arrive to secondary school with a sense of shame around reading that is a difficult barrier to tackle.

Through the charity's high quality pupil training, our Reader Leaders are empowered to support younger pupils in a meaningful way. Older pupils connect with vulnerable younger readers in a way that cannot be replicated with adult staff.

The Reader Leader programme allows for genuine connection with peers. It is the best way that we have found of overcoming low self esteem with reading.”

Alice Paetel, Whole School Reading Lead, Queensbridge School, Bromsgrove



Reader Leader is a reading mentoring scheme, created by the Children's Literacy Charity, in which we train older school pupils to become reading 'Leaders' who then mentor younger 'Readers' who need to build confidence in reading.

The programme supports younger pupils who may be below age-related expectation in reading, not reading at home or who have not yet discovered the joy of reading. Following our expert training session, Leaders are provided with a resource pack and meet their Readers once a week for 30 minutes, over the course of 18 weeks.

The Reader Leader programme offers a great way to get involved with the National Year of Reading 2026 (www.nationalyearofreading.org.uk).

Readers

- develop reading fluency and comprehension
- improve self-confidence
- start to enjoy deeper engagement with reading
- build a relationship with an older peer

Leaders

- gain valuable teaching and mentoring skills
- have a responsible role within the school community
- build a supportive relationship with a younger peer



Run by one of our skilled trainers, the one-day Reader Leader training (half-day for primary schools) equips 15 students to mentor younger readers over 18 weeks. We provide the school with slides, handouts, resources and a pin badge. Certificates are given to Readers and Leaders.

In secondary schools, Leaders are typically in Years 10-12 supporting Readers in Years 7-9. In primary schools, Leaders are typically in Years 5-6, supporting Readers in Years 2-4.

Key Factors for Success:

Consistency - the sessions need to take place weekly in the same place with the same Reader and Leader

Programme length - younger pupils should receive support for a minimum of 18 weeks

Coordination - once training is given, the programme is overseen by a member of school staff

Organisation of books - books need to be accessible with a range of levels available



Scheduling & Cost:

Secondary school training is a full day costing £600 + travel.

Primary school training is a full morning costing £400 + travel.

For more than 15 students (up to a maximum of 22) an additional cost of £30 per student will be applied to cover materials.

For enquiries or to book a session please contact readerleader@theclc.org.uk