



# Reading Strategy

January 2020

Reading is at the forefront of our school ethos. We promote reading through the activities we offer in school, our curriculum design, through role-modelling and by resourcing our new library. Below are details of such factors:

## **Whole School Reading Initiative**

This year, we have introduced the whole-school reading initiative. Fortnightly, students are assigned to a member of staff (this includes teaching assistants, ICT technicians, administration staff, teachers and the senior leadership team). During the form time period in the afternoon, students will read on a 1:1 basis (where possible) with that member of staff. The reading is for pleasure with no pressure from the member of staff. If appropriate, the member of staff may ask questions about the text or simply listen to the student read. This initiative is to promote the importance of reading and the value of reading for pleasure.

## **Whole School Reader**

Each year we introduce a whole-school reader. A plan is put in place to complete the text by the end of the academic year with students viewing a screening of the novel during activities week. This project enables us to have common themes in assembly and to relate the Knightsfield Code of Conduct and values to the messages given in the book.

## **Reading Buddies**

To add staff to our whole school reader initiative, we are collaborating with our neighbours at Monk's Walk School. 'Reading Buddies' will supplement the number of staff to enable us to work 1:1 with the students thus allowing more time for each individual to read aloud. The Reading Buddies will also visit form times in the morning to listen to students read.

## **Form Time Activity**

Reading has become part of the form time routine and students have their personal readers with them every day. Form times consist of whole school assemblies (x2), House assemblies, personal organiser checks and reading.

## **Word Aware**

As we update our curriculum and schemes of work, staff are utilising the 'Word Aware' approach to extending students' vocabulary. Approximately 12 key words will be assigned to each new topic that students are expected to have 'secured' by the end of the unit of work. This approach allows students to establish links with other subjects and enables involvement from parents where they can support their child's learning from home.

## **Testing**

Knightsfield students are tested systematically for their reading age. This information is monitored with interventions targeted at students who demonstrate the biggest shortfall between reading age and chronological age.