

Renaissance Accelerated Reader Programme (AR)

Did you know?

Every Year 7 -10 pupil has a reading book from the library, selected by themselves?

FAQs:

Q: Did they pick the book themselves?

A: For the most part yes, they did. But, 3 times a year, your child is tested to see if their reading needs have changed. From this test, they get a ZPD score which just tells them their reading 'zone'. Each zone is colour-coded so that your child selects books appropriate to their needs.

Q: Can I help my child with reading?

A: We'd love that! They read most nights at primary school so why not at secondary too?

Q: We have a lot of books at home; should my child only read books from Priory's library?

A: No, it's fine for them to read other books, they're likely to be on the Renaissance Accelerated Reader Programme (AR) anyway so in lots of circumstances, pupils can 'quiz' on books that they got from public libraries or as gifts at home.

Q: Apart from the tests that assess reading age, what else does Renaissance Accelerated Reader do?

A: After a child finishes a reading book, AR also has the facility to 'quiz' the pupils on their book. The quizzes are multiple choice comprehension and inference questions however the system responds to each child so every quiz is different. Teachers can see each pupil's score and assess whether the book was properly read and understood. If a pupil habitually fails or passes tests, their 'zone' can be altered by their teacher so that more appropriate reading material is selected.

Each pupil has their own log-in and the system stores their reading progress - their reading age, how many books they've read and how many they've passed.

Q: Is this programme effective at making children better readers?

A: It sure is! In most scenarios a child will progress in line with their chronological age. A child who joins Priory with a lower reading age than their chronological age will have catching up to do but AR definitely does help bridge that gap.

Q: Can my child quiz and test at home?

A: By all means, pupils that are supervised can 'quiz' at home but pupils may only do the 'test' at school in exam conditions.

Q: Can the system be cheated?

A: It is highly unlikely that a child can cheat the system - if they quiz on a book they fail, the teacher will have a discussion with them as to why they did not pass the test. In scenarios where the pupil has read the book thoroughly and quizzed within 14 days of reading it, they usually pass. If pupils read outside of their 'zone'; attempt to quiz on books they read years ago; or attempt to quiz on a book they have not read; they will probably not pass. The idea is to get pupils to be confident enough to progress through the 'zones' at a sensible pace.

Q: How often should they quiz/get a new book?

A: It depends on the thickness of their book and how much and how often they read. They read in English lessons for 90 minutes a week but it is recommended that a child reads for 20 minutes a day - even at weekends. If a pupil has had the same book for a while and aren't quizzing, their teacher will have a discussion with them about it. The average is about three per half term but it depends.

Q: Will my child get rewarded for being a good reader?

A: Absolutely! We have the Millionaire's Club, Reader of the Year, The Great Reading Race and Get Caught Reading to name a few incentives.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Ask your child what they are reading (if they don't have their book on them that is enough to get them sanctioned, so please ask them where their book is). Ask them when they last quizzed and what their score was. Ask them what their reading age is and if it's gone up or down. Email Mrs Gidden or Mrs Robinson-Ali and ask for a report of the books your child has read and what their reading age is in relation to their chronological age.

Reading WILL help your child progress. Failure to engage with reading WILL hinder your child's progress, in every subject, so please let us help you to help your child.