



TREVIGLAS
ACADEMY

Parents' Guide to the Accelerated Reader Programme ("AR")

What is the Accelerated Reader Programme?

Accelerated Reader is an exciting internet based computer programme that helps teachers monitor and manage students' independent reading practice. Your child will be able to pick a book at their own reading level and read it at their own pace. When they have finished their book, your child is able to take a short quiz on the computer about the book they have just read (passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what was read). AR will give both the children and the teachers feedback based upon the results of the quiz. Teachers can then use this information to help your child set goals and direct their ongoing reading practice.

Students using AR have the ability to choose their own books to read, within their range, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience. Teachers and other staff will help your child choose books at an appropriate level so that they develop their reading ability but without becoming frustrated at the level of difficulty. Students really enjoy completing the quizzes on the books that they have read and find success in the quiz highly motivating.

Questions and answers about the Accelerated Reader Programme and the BookFinder

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

At least once a term, all students will take a STAR Reading Test, which measures a student's reading age. This test also provides the student with their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development), which will help them to choose books that are appropriate for their reading age.

What is a STAR Reading Test?

STAR Reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's response. If their response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 30 minutes. These tests give a good indication to the school of your child's reading ability.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development?

ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a STAR Reading test. It is important for students to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. ZPDs will be adjusted according to the needs of each student.

My child has a low reading age, should I worry?

AR is being used in Treviglas to help your child to increase the amount of reading they do and develop their reading skills. Many students with low reading ages will already be receiving

additional support for reading through our reading intervention programme. However, the important thing is to make sure that your child benefits from AR and hopefully makes gains over the year. As a parent/carer, please make sure that your child is reading at home and talk to your child's English teacher if you have any concerns.

What is a book level (ATOS)?

Book levels are attached to each book and represent the difficulty of the text. This is not the same as the reading age. As well as a reading age, students will be given a ZPD which sets them a range in which they can choose a book level, for example 4.2 to 6.6.

What is an interest level?

Books are also classified by interest level, depending on their content. These are classified as lower, middle or upper years. The content of upper years may be more suited to students over the age of 14.

What are points?

Every book that has an AR Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. AR points are computer generated based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words). For example '13 Words' by Lemony Snicket is a 0.5 point book - about 849 words long and a book level of 3.5, whilst Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix' is a 44 point book - about 257,154 words long and a book level of 7.2.

How will I know if a book has an AR quiz?

All the stock in our Library has been labelled to show it is an AR book, giving the level of the book to support students in choosing books within their ZPD. If you wish to find out if a book is in AR, please go to www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all books with AR quizzes.

How much should my child read during the school day?

One of the English lessons is dedicated to AR each fortnight. We will be encouraging children to read at other times though - tutor times, breaks, lunchtime, after school and at home. According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains in their reading ability.

How can I help my child to become a better reader?

Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, visiting the library, letting your child see you read and discussing books that you have read. When reading together, stop and ask questions to check that your child understands what they have read. Reading with your child, no matter how old they are, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning.

What if my child doesn't like reading?

Using Accelerated Reader, your child will choose the books they want to read. Their teacher will make certain the book is at the right level so that after completing the book, your child should do well on the AR Reading Practice Quiz. Success on the quiz will encourage your child to read more. With guidance from the teacher, and success, even students who say they don't like reading can develop a love of reading.

Finally...

Thank you for taking the time to read this information about the Accelerated Reader Programme. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.