

Assisted Reading for Children

ARCh is an Oxfordshire charity which recruits, trains, places and supports dedicated reading mentors to provide one to one personalised reading support to 6-11 year olds. We have a growing network of volunteers around the county, working in over 100 primary schools in Oxfordshire and supporting around 750 children each week.

Help children achieve more

Despite many initiatives, there is still a link between social class and educational achievement. ARCh helps children develop a love of reading which enhances their lives at school, and beyond, so that they can go on to make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being.

How ARCh can help your school

Schools identify the children that they believe would benefit from one to one interventions with a trained reading mentor. These children spend 30 minutes twice a week with their mentor for the academic year. Generally, these are children who are able to read but are performing below average ability or who struggle to enjoy or understand reading. We recruit, train, DBS check and place the volunteer in your school. We provide them with a box of books and games. Resources are carefully chosen to suit the children. Reading mentors are given frequent opportunities to change these resources.

Once the reading mentor is placed in your school, we provide regular observation visits to ensure that all is going well. We also run refresher and recall training as well as holding support meetings for all mentors each term.

Our reading mentors provide one to one support and mentoring to children who may be struggling with their confidence, reading or language skills. Over time, the children learn to love reading and their communication skills improve. We help children to develop a love of reading and an opportunity to discover and explore a new world of reading materials.

What the schools say about ARCh

“ARCh readers are excellent and responsive to the individual needs of the children. The empathetic and caring approach of the ARCh readers has helped these children to make accelerated progress and gain in confidence. They are a highly valued resource in the school”

St Nicholas Primary School

“ARCh provides a valuable opportunity for children to grow in confidence. Volunteers do a superb job, giving pupils 1-1 attention, helping reluctant readers to enjoy reading. A really essential help to KS2 teachers.”

Windmill Primary School

What we need from the school

We need the school to identify the children who would benefit from our service, and to provide a place for the reading mentor to work which is outside the classroom. It usually helps if the children do not take part in other intervention programmes so that their progress can be accurately measured. We encourage regular meetings between the class teacher and the mentor, and ask that reading mentors are kept informed of term dates, events and inset days. We also encourage schools to treat them as part of their school community.

Our volunteers

Our reading mentors come from a variety of backgrounds and are aged from 18 to 80 plus. Some are retired, others are employed or see volunteering as a route into employment. All reading mentors are trained to our high standards and are dedicated and committed.



Our impact

At the end of the school year we ask schools to tell us the impact our reading mentors have made on the children's reading, confidence and communication skills. Pupils in our 2017 survey showed improvements as below:

99% showed an improved confidence in reading

98% displayed increased performance in reading

98% improved in self-esteem/self-confidence

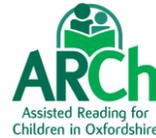
96% showed an improvement in reading comprehension

From a total of 660 sent out, 396 surveys were completed (60% reply rate). Evaluation conducted in association with Research Oxford Ltd

www.researchoxford.co.uk

Would you like to know more?

ARCh asks schools to contribute towards the cost of providing this highly effective service which is only £420 per reading mentor per year. Many schools use Pupil Premium to fund our service. In return, we will provide a trained and supported mentor who will provide ongoing one to one support to three children every week. Through working together, we can make a huge difference to those children who are not yet engaged in learning and help to enrich your school community.



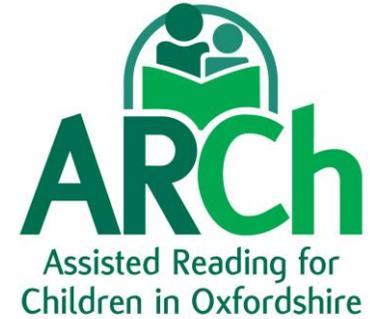
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Providing personalised learning in partnership with Primary Schools



www.archoxfordshire.org.uk

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