

Five Ways To: Weave Reading into the Curriculum

It's uncontroversial – uncontested – that reading fluency is a key component in students' wider learning capacity and confidence and yet it is actually possible for some students to go through a school day or week without doing very much reading at all.



There is a combination of factors that can reduce students' reading volume

Here are a few. The first, and arguably the easiest to fix, is students encounter too many ideas via their teacher's PowerPoints. Secondly, students often engage with the content by listening to their teacher or peers but do not necessarily have to read along. Thirdly, there is little

motivation for students to read if there are no expectations for them to do something meaningful with what they learn. Finally, English is the only subject where students encounter extended prose.

Five ways to weave reading into the curriculum

- 1 Present info via text rather than powerpoint
- 2 Buy textbooks or prepare workbooks
- 3 Develop accountable reading routines
- 4 Develop oral or echo reading routines
- 5 Set accountable reading tasks for homework

Mix up how you present info

Where could you switch and mix things up so that students have text to read instead of relying on your slides? Be conscious that unless you present information via reading text, students will have to rely on your presentations which are full of transient information and often unreadable at the back of the room.



Textbooks & workbooks

To make planning easy, source or create resources that embed the reading material well in advance. This ensures the materials are relevant to your curriculum, of high quality and makes lesson planning more about how you engage with the reading and weave it into an instructional teaching sequence.

Accountable reading routines

Students need to expect to have to do something meaningful with the content of the text to force them to make the mental effort needed to get properly stuck in. Make reading accountable by providing unseen and search questions, and summary tasks.



Oral or echo reading routines

Echo reading helps develop students' reading fluency. The technique works by the teacher reading a passage of text, followed by her students reading the same text aloud to each other. Hearing an expert read will likely improve students' fluency, and the repetitive nature of the task helps consolidate their understanding of the content.

Accountable homework

Have students read more outside of school by giving text to read at home and setting activities in the classroom to check their understanding. Tasks might include summarising the key ideas or answering substantial knowledge check questions.

