

Reading is something that we all do every day and, once we have learnt to read, we take it for granted. There are many different reasons for reading:

- Reading for information
- Reading for understanding
- Reading for developing critical thinking skills
- Reading to inform our own writing
- Reading for academic success
- Reading for relaxation
- Reading for pleasure

Reading fiction from a young age has a massive impact on academic achievement and reading for pleasure (defined as the reading we do of our own free will, for enjoyment) not only provides mental and emotional health benefits but also boosts academic development. In recent years the value of reading for pleasure has been recognised through research time and again and cannot be underestimated.

At The Blue Coat School we encourage and support all of our students in reading for pleasure. As part of a recent refurbishment of the school library, students asked for a quiet reading area and this was incorporated into the plans. The Reading for Pleasure Zone which sits within the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) provides students with a wide range of fiction to choose from and a quiet, comfy environment in which to read their chosen book.

The following links provide information on Reading for Pleasure:

[The Open University: Reading for Pleasure](#)

[Department for Education: Research Evidence on Reading for Pleasure \(2012\)](#)

[Reading for Pleasure: A Review of Current Research \(2024\)](#)