

Hackney Reading Champions



What are reading champions?

Building on last year's successes, we are inviting primary schools to nominate two/three Hackney Reading Champions from Year 5 or 6. Reading champions are pupils who help raise the profile of reading within their schools, helping more children to read for pleasure e.g. by writing for the newsletter, assembly recommendations, creating author displays and organising book clubs.

As part of their Hackney role, they meet half- termly with other schools to create a network, supporting pupil voice across the borough. The meetings include an opportunity to recommend texts and discuss their roles, learning from each other. They are also asked to develop and complete challenges to foster reading for pleasure within their school.

Your school may already have a system such as reading champions/ambassadors. You can nominate your Hackney Reading Champions from this. If your school wishes to set up reading champions/ambassadors across your school there is further guidance to support this.

How will the approach run this year?

This year to further support the development of the Hackney Reading champions, there is funding available through the Hackney Raising Achievement budget to support with texts. This funding is aimed at raising the achievement of children in the following groups:

- Black Caribbean (BCR) heritage pupils,
- Turkish Kurdish/Turkish Cypriot (TKTC heritage pupils),
- Indian heritage pupils
- Traveller community

Therefore, to take part in the Hackney Reading champions this year, at least 1 of your nominated 2/3 children should be from the above groups and need to develop any of the following skills:

<u>Personal and social skills:</u>	<u>Reading skills</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing confidence in supporting others• Developing ability to work as a team• Building self esteem• Develop leadership skills• Developing speaking and listening skills with peers from other schools• Preparing for transition into secondary school• Building independence and organisational skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Widening their breadth of reading• Seeing themselves as a reader• Building knowledge of texts• Building confidence in discussing books and sharing recommendations

If your school would like to be part in Hackney Reading Champions and do not meet the above criteria or have pupils in other key groups who are underachieving and would benefit from the support, please feel free to contact us for a separate conversation.



Purpose

- Raises the profile of reading within schools and across Hackney
- Creates a pupil led system helping to make reading 'cool' in school and across Hackney
- Allows children to have a meaningful role as leaders of reading for pleasure, championing reading and encouraging others
- Creates a platform for honest pupil voice that directly feeds back into school/LA decisions about reading provision and resources
- Creates a support system for reading leads with reading across the school

What's involved

- Reading lead agrees with SLT to commit to the approach and support pupils attending all the meetings across the year, meeting them in between and submitting relevant information and evaluations.
- School recruits and appoints pupil champions/ambassadors (could be a group across the school or just 1 class) Resources for the application process can be used to set this up.
- Schools select 2 or 3 champions to represent their school at Hackney Reading Champion meetings. These children report back to the group/class/school.
- Reading Lead supports the Reading champions in their role through regular communication and attending the meetings with them
- Schools receive books at the in-person meetings to take back and use in their schools.

Dates

- **Friday September 22nd: Deadline to register to participate (use google form)**
- **Launch meeting in person Hackney Town hall** Wednesday 18th October 1.30-3pm
- **Session 1 (Autumn 2)** Thursday 23rd November 2-3pm Online
- **Session 2 (Spring 1)** Wednesday 24th January 1.30-3pm In person tbc.
- **Session 3 (Spring 2)** Wednesday 28th February 2-3pm Online
- **Session 4 (Summer 1)** Wednesday 24th April 2-3pm Online
- **Final sharing session in person** Thursday 20th June 1.30-3pm Hackney Town Hall

Please see the link to the website for more information: [Hackney Reading Champions](#).