

Children and Young People's Promise in Public Libraries

This Children's Promise sets out the experience children and young people should have through public library services

Vision:

- *Every child and young person visiting a public library is inspired by an exciting accessible environment which makes reading for pleasure irresistible.*
- *They have the opportunity to engage with imaginative digital opportunities through public libraries, building their skills, knowledge and creativity.*
- *They will find a range of inclusive and diverse fiction and non-fiction books and other information resources to support growing confidence in literacy and formal and informal learning.*
- *They are able to take part in a wide range of literacy and cultural experiences including reading and book-based activities.*
- *They are actively involved in decisions about service developments and are offered opportunities to volunteer.*
- *They are supported through library services and activities to improve their health and wellbeing*

Children's Library Journeys

Public Libraries welcome children from the very earliest months of life, helping parents and carers to support them as they grow and learn. Working with schools, school library services and school librarians, local and national partners, libraries provide a range of activities, programmes and initiatives which introduce, extend and refresh the library experience to children and support automatic library membership programmes. ASCEL have drawn these together into a single '[library journey](#)' that every child can enjoy– all focused on the best outcomes for the child.

At what stage in a Child's Journey?	What does this look like?	Outcome
Pre-natal to birth	Involvement in pre-natal projects and programmes. Inspiring parents to read with their baby	- Enhancing life outcomes for children aged 0-2 - Supporting attachment, resilience, emotional health and wellbeing, speech and language
Pre-school	Inspiring parents to read and rhyme with their child and form a lifelong reading habit, Bookstart Giving parents space and time to spend time bonding with babies and building parental confidence	- Enhancing life outcomes for children aged 0-2 - Supporting attachment, resilience, emotional health and wellbeing building resilience and character, speech, language communication development; early literacy and school readiness
Transition to primary school	Partnerships with schools, including class visits to libraries and digital offer	- Supporting literacy and language development, reducing the literacy gap in poverty hotspots. - Tackling rural isolation - Providing opportunities for looked after children/young carers
Out of school engagement with primary aged children	Children have the opportunity to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge and other reading, learning, digital and cultural activities throughout the year	- Supporting literacy and language development raising aspiration - Closing the literacy gap in poverty hotspots. - Tackling rural isolation - Providing opportunities for looked after children/young carers - Building community and family cohesion. - Reducing digital inequalities - Digital fluency –(citizenship, STEM Agenda and supporting combating extremism) - Supporting emotional and mental health and wellbeing
Transition to secondary school	Supporting learning including new digital resource Helping nurture a lifelong love of learning that may impact positively on exam success. Providing an opportunity for young people to engage with libraries via a digital platform.	- Need for young people to improve their technical skills – STEM agenda National Curriculum - IT curriculum / digital fluency - Tackling rural isolation - Contributes to raising young people's aspiration and achievement, supporting GCSE /A level success and has a long term economic impact - Supporting transition - Character education

At what stage in a Child's Journey?	What does this look like?	Outcome
Out of school engagement with secondary school children	Participation in volunteering opportunities and accreditation, Reading Hack activities.	• Boosting self-esteem and aspiration, increasing confidence, improving employability skills and reducing NEETS • Reducing inequality and improving economic wellbeing • Community engagement /participation/social cohesion • Improving and supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing?

Our partners

Libraries work with a range of local and national partners to deliver the Children and Young People's Promise. National partners include The Reading Agency, Booktrust, National Literacy Trust, Arts Council England, The School Library Association and CILIP Youth Libraries Group and School Libraries Group and Inclusive Minds.

We work closely with the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) and the Children's Promise links to SCL's Universal Offers:-

Reading Offer: Books and reading focused promotions for under-fives and older children linking to the calendar spikes of the reading offer

Learning Offer and Digital Offer: Space and resources for formal and informal learning including digital skills and creativity and e: safety

Health Offer: Health information and support for children's well-being, social and emotional development and children and young people's mental health lists

Information Offer: Access to Information and signposting for parents

Six Steps: Provision of accessible resources for children in public libraries

The Children and Young People's Promise also reflects the principles of Arts Council England's [7 Quality Principles](#) for work with children and young people.

- striving for excellence
- emphasising authenticity
- being inspiring, and engaging
- ensuring a positive child-centred experience
- actively involving children and young people
- providing a sense of personal progression
- developing a sense of ownership and belonging

See [Children and Young People's Promise in Public Libraries 2015 mapped against ACE 7 Quality Principles](#)

Delivering on the Children's Promise

ASCEL's work to deliver on this promise includes:

Marketing and advocacy

Developing the skills of library staff

Sharing best practice

Research and development

In 2015 -2016 ASCEL will

- Develop a national marketing strategy linked to Children's Library Journeys
- Explore skills development for library staff
- Seek funding to develop digital offers
- Work with Society of Chief Librarians and The Reading Agency to develop the Children and Young People's Mental Health lists

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