

Myth 8: “Reading aloud won’t build our confidence, it will only make us anxious.”

The Truth

Reading underpins everything that our students do. We believe that our students are entitled to become competent, resilient and fluent readers by equipping them with a range of skills and strategies, promoting reading of challenging texts and developing an appreciation of a wealth of literature to build upon their cultural capital. Evidence suggests that children who read every day not only perform better in tests than those who don’t, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

At The Four Stones MAT, we recognise that the teaching and promoting of reading is the job of every teacher regardless of their subject. Therefore, when planning lessons, our teachers use a specified approach to ensure that students are able to fully access the text. During lessons, we focus on approaches that have the greatest benefits: whole class reading where the teacher reads a section of the text and all members of the class are expected to read aloud. We sometimes encounter students who are reluctant to read aloud in class. As teachers, the worst thing that we can do is to not expect students to read aloud, because the message that this would give is that we do not value communication skills. Instead, we pride ourselves on using a range of strategies to support students in reading aloud, so that they leave school as confident communicators. We also use reading protocols in tutorial and all subject lessons that reading takes place so that our reading instruction is focused and supports readers of all levels.

What you will see in practice:

- Large amounts of text read from paper, rather than a screen
- Reading in all lessons, where possible
- Rulers used to follow the text
- Reading aloud in all classrooms
- Teachers modelling reading
- Questioning to check for understanding
- Discussion of new vocabulary

Did you know?

Hearing stories read aloud strengthens speaking, listening, writing, reading and comprehension skills. It increases vocabulary, helps students appreciate the beauty and rhythm of language, enhances imagination and observation skills, improves critical and creative thinking skills, expands a student’s general knowledge and understanding, develops positive attitudes towards books as a source of pleasure and information and helps to create life-long readers.

Further info – Reading Protocols

- Before reading: discuss context, text type / purpose for reading, key vocabulary.
- Number each line of the text to make it easy to refer to specifics.
- Use a ruler to follow the text.
- Pause the reading at key points and use the cold-calling approach to question the text.
- Sound out (“I say, you say”) and discuss unfamiliar vocabulary.
- Encourage / model fix-it strategies.
- Teacher reads aloud to model expressive reading and use of the reading protocols.
- Students read aloud.
- After reading: summarise and question the text