

Using ebooks to support reading for pleasure in 2023

A survey of primary school teachers

Language and literacy are fundamental skills that are essential to lifelong success. A love of reading is at the heart of helping young learners become more literate, develop key life skills, and boost mental wellbeing. In today's world, digital resources are helping shape what this process looks like for all pupils.

In summer 2023, more than 500 primary educators, including classroom teachers, headteachers and SENCOs, shared their thoughts on using eBooks to support reading for pleasure. Their insights tell the exciting story of how engaging edtech can lead to better literacy and extra enjoyment in UK schools.

The difference eBooks are already making

We compared insights from teachers whose pupils have access to eBooks, to those who do not yet have access. For those who already have eBook access:

- More than **76%** say eBooks can support reading for pleasure in all children
- **54%** say eBooks provide an opportunity to support different learning needs
- **A quarter** (26%) say eBooks encourage greater family engagement with books and reading
- **Over half** (52%) believe reading on digital platforms is becoming more important in society
- **A similar number** believe eBooks can support the home-school connection

3 in 5 (56%) of primary teachers use digital tools and resources to support literacy in the classroom.



Three times more teachers whose pupils had access to eBooks rated their school's culture of reading for pleasure as excellent than those without access (18% vs 6%).



They were also **three times more likely** to say it increased their pupils' reading confidence (37% vs. 12%).



74% of primary teachers who use digital tools agree that it is important to offer different reading formats to support children's reading.



For those that use digital tools:

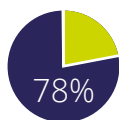
A third believe reading on a digital platform is becoming more important in society.

Yet only **1 in 3** (33%) say their pupils have access to an eBook at school.

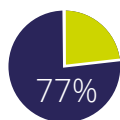


1 in 6 (16%) have access to one at home.

The top three benefits of eBooks, according to teachers who have access to them:



Supporting access to a diverse range of books



Providing opportunities for personalised learning



Supporting reading for pleasure in all children

Among primary teachers who do not yet have access to eBooks:



6 in 10 (61%) believe digital tools can help children to engage with reading



3 in 5 (57%) would value the interactive elements of eBooks to support text comprehension



87% feel that eBooks could impact on children's reading enjoyment



84% feel that eBooks could impact their reading motivation



82% feel that eBooks could impact independent reading

"Some families prefer [books] on iPads, others prefer them online, having both gives us reassurance that more pupils are reading at home."

Primary Teacher

"Most school books are not up-to-date exciting ones, children are not given choices as to what books they would like in their libraries and so consequently they have nothing to look forward to."

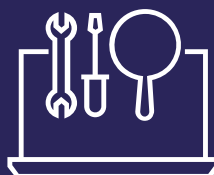
Primary Teacher

For those teachers whose pupils don't have access to eBooks:



Two-thirds (65%) say a lack of CPD or other training is their biggest barrier to using eBooks

3 in 5 (60%) have practical concerns about the administrative side of setting up and maintaining an eBook library



Almost half (47%) cite staff confidence in using digital tools as a barrier to using eBooks

46% of teachers cite lack of financial resources as a barrier



There is much to love about current advances in the digital landscape – especially around how tools can deepen a passion for reading in schools – but the presence of a digital divide must not be overlooked. As we continue to seek the views of teachers, parents and pupils, we are committed to ensuring the next chapter is collaborative, so that every child can be part of the story.



The *Using ebooks to support reading for pleasure in 2023 – A survey of primary school teachers* was published by the National Literacy Trust in association with Pearson.

**National
Literacy
Trust**

Change your story

Conducted between June and July 2023, this online survey consulted 516 primary teachers, including Classroom/Subject Teachers, members of Senior Leadership Teams (such as Headteachers, Deputy or Assistant Heads), Teaching Assistants, Literacy Coordinators, SENCOs and Librarians.

> [Find out more](#) on our Report web page!

At Pearson, we're committed to ensuring every child can develop a lifelong love of reading no matter their ability, background or identity. As part of this commitment we've created Bug Club Reading Corner, our diverse online library of over 100 beautiful books that children can choose according to their interests, encouraging them to read for pleasure. It also includes professional development for teachers created in partnership with Professor Teresa Cremin and her team at The Open University.



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