



Heathside School

Appropriate Reading Policy

The Learning Resource Centre aims to provide our students with a wide range of reading materials that will afford interest across all abilities and genres. We feel that it is important for reading to be associated with pleasure and achievement and to make all forms of children's literature available to our school community.

Students in Years 7 & 8 follow the Accelerated Reader Scheme, a software programme that allows teachers and librarians to monitor and manage independent reading practice, whilst promoting reading for pleasure. There is a diverse range of literature on the scheme encapsulating classics through to modern contemporary fiction. All students are encouraged to have a reading book with them during the school day and time is regularly set aside during registration for quiet reading.

For a book title to find its way into the LRC, it needs to fulfil two of the following criteria.

- **Has the book been requested by a student? If so, at least one of the following categories should also apply:**
 - *Is the book marketed as a children's book?*
 - *Is the book on the Accelerated Scheme?*
 - *If the book is not on the scheme, is it part of a series where the first book is already on Accelerated Reader?*

Books on the LRC shelves are aimed at the school community, 11 – 18 years and it is recognised that some young adult fiction can present issues or language which some students may be uncomfortable with. Best-selling teen fiction for example allows young people to explore different situations in a safe way where they remain in control. Reading fiction of this nature empowers our students to understand concepts which they may be unfamiliar with and aid them in their decision making in their later years.

If a student borrows an item from the library which they find offensive, we would encourage him or her to return the book and to choose an alternative. Library staff will highlight the issue on the library management system to alert future borrowers.