

What is Literacy?

'Literacy' is one of those words we hear a lot about just now, but what does it actually mean?

There is no easy answer to this question but in general terms 'Literacy', or being literate, is the ability to: -

- Read
- Write
- Talk
- Listen

These can be seen as the separate elements of Literacy.

Why is Literacy Important?

Literacy is important in schools as reading, writing and communication are the skills which underpin most class lessons. By ensuring that pupils read and write to the best of their abilities we are giving them the opportunity to learn and succeed in life.



Reading, writing and the ability to communicate clearly are transferable skills which young people will need, not just in their school career but throughout life. These are life skills. Employers look for literate employees and universities require levels of understanding which can only come from a firm grasp of reading and writing.

Improving Literacy at Stewarton Academy

Staff in Stewarton academy have introduced a number of strategies to improve pupils literacy: -

- Sharing information regarding Literacy on a whole school basis.
- Building up links with the associated primary schools in reading and writing.
- Trialling new initiatives in a variety of departments.
- All teachers have a role to play in promoting high standards in literacy.

Stewarton Academy is aware that part of our job is to ensure pupils reach their full potential and literacy is central to this progression.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

Parents support is crucial if any drive to improve levels of literacy is to work.

As a parent you can help primarily by focussing on reading and writing.

- Encourage your children to read. Confident readers achieve more in their school career.
- Support your child when they encounter a difficulty in reading. If they don't know a particular word/phrase, they can use a dictionary. Or, as is often more useful, try to work out the meaning by reading the context – the sentence or paragraph the word is in.
- Talk to your children about what they are reading
- Promote a positive attitude to reading and writing in your home.
- Take your child to the library

- Encourage any writing children want to do as it means they will be working with words and this will help them be more comfortable with vocabulary and language.
- Ultimately, some children will be keener readers than others and perhaps we cannot change that. What we can do, is make sure every child reads as well as they are able to and that is where your support is important.



If you have any queries please contact the school.

Stewarton Academy
Cairnduff Place
Stewarton
KILMARNOCK
KA3 5QF

Tel: 01560 482342
Fax: 01560 465339

E-mail: stewarton.academy@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
www.stewartonacademy.co.uk

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Information for Parents