



Accelerated Reader Policy

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Reading transports curious minds to wondrous realms of the imagination. It determines success not only in the classroom, but in life. Highly popular and successful for over 25 years, Accelerated Reader (AR) is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practise.

AR is supported by scientifically-based research. An extensive body of research confirms the effectiveness of Accelerated Reader and best classroom practices in helping educators dramatically improve student reading skills. The research consistently demonstrates that Accelerated Reader enables teachers to target instruction and accelerate reading growth for students of all ability levels.

AR now has a redesigned student interface with improved navigation and tablet compatibility and has the ability to:

- Personalize and guide independent reading practice.
- Develop lifelong readers and learners.
- Tap into unlimited access to all quizzes and enjoy online support.
- Increase parental support with web-based, school-to-home communications.

The 5 steps to reading success

It's all about practise. AR encourages substantial differentiated reading practise to create strong readers. Based on each student's independent reading level, AR helps teachers set personalized goals for each student, and guide students to books that are difficult enough to keep them challenged, but not so difficult as to cause frustration.

In addition, AR helps teachers monitor students' vocabulary growth, literacy skills development, and other reading skills.

1. **Determine reading level.** First, a student's optimal reading level is determined through the STAR Reading Enterprise assessment. This assessment suggests a range of book levels for each student called the "zone of proximal development", or ZPD. Children should begin reading books that have a level at the lower end of their ZPD and gradually move up the range in order to make optimum progress.
2. **Set practice goals.** Teachers support children to set individualized reading practice goals based on reading quantity, quality, and difficulty and they can then monitor progress toward those goals.
3. **Personalised practice.** Personalised reading practice means students read books of interest at their own reading level. AR BookFinder makes it easy to find the perfect book.
4. **Students take an AR Quiz.** AR offers more than 150,000 quizzes of three types on both fiction and nonfiction titles. Students have many different options for taking AR Quizzes, including laptops, PCs, tablets, and NEO 2s, as well as through the AR Student App available on Apple® devices.
5. **Receive instant feedback.** AR provides teachers with immediate information, helping them monitor the comprehension skills of each student and inform further instruction or intervention. Students and parents get instant feedback to help motivate success with the use of Renaissance Home Connect.

The following guidelines will govern the AR Program at Stanley Crook Primary School:

- Students will complete a STAR Reader assessment **AT LEAST** every term. Where required, students may complete additional STAR Reader tests to inform other forms of teacher assessment or to update/ clarify reading levels and ZPD range for AR books.
- All students must log in using their own passwords and key in their own answers.
- Each student should be reading on their ZPD, or reading level, as determined by the STAR Reading assessment.
- Students must maintain an 80% correct average on comprehension within a minimum of three AR quizzes before moving onto the next level. However, teachers will maintain a degree of 'flex' when working with the children in their class to determine if they require further consolidation within a level or are ready for the challenge of the next level within their ZPD.
- Diagnostic reports from STAR Reader assessment will be used by teachers to inform individual reading requirements and targets.
- TOPS reports after each AR test will be utilised to initiate discussion between teacher and student to reflect on progress and reading targets
- AR tests are taken at school during school hours. Where children read AR books and complete quizzes at home, teachers will consider levels of independence and results through weekly analysis of data.
- AR performance reports will be produced every Friday and distributed to each Team for monitoring and analysis purposes.
- AR Guided Reading sessions will be used to provide additional support and challenge to students. AR Guided Reading books are in sets of five. Therefore, it is suggested that AR guided reading groups are composed of no more than five students per group and are set based on AR Star Reader results and ZPD range. AR Guided Reading books are available from Team 4.
- Best performing/ most improved students in KS1 and KS2 to will be awarded an Accelerated Reader bookmark during Celebration Assembly.
- Progress reports will be produced for each student to inform teacher assessment and possible interventions following completion of each STAR Reader assessment.