

Theme: Closing the Gap Case Studies: LLA Premier League Reading Stars

The Challenge

To improve disadvantaged WBR boys' attitudes to reading resulting in raised attainment and in pupils reading more widely and for pleasure.

What we did

An initial meeting of all schools interested in closing the gap was held. A focus of raising attainment in reading and increasing participation of WBR boys was agreed. The project was cross-phase, concentrating on Y5 and Y7 pupils, and included mainstream local schools and a special school. 2 pupils from each of the 7 schools who signed up to the project were invited to attend a 10 week Premier League Reading Stars programme. Provided by LCFC, and supported by the Literacy trust, each session ran for 2 hours split between reading and football and was delivered by an LCFC coach. Reading ages were ascertained at the beginning and end of the project along with an attitudinal survey and parent/carer views.

What difference did it make?

Pupil Survey – The pupil survey indicated an increase in both the confidence and enjoyment of reading from the pupils. Most pupils now enjoy and understand what they are reading and that reading is important. The pupils said that they enjoyed a Leicester City coach teaching them reading and football. They said that the football at the end made them work harder at the reading.

Parent survey – Parents noticed an increase in confidence in the reading of their children. They also commented that they had improved their reading and amount that is being read.

Teachers' observations- as the 10 sessions progressed the pupils became more engaged in the reading that they were doing. They worked harder and their confidence grew. The football was a good incentive although as the sessions progressed the pupils became more engaged with the reading and the football became less important.

You could try

Run the programme within your own school.
Ensure it is driven by senior leaders.
Ensure the Stadium tour is kept to the end of the ten weeks.
Make sure all parents know what is involved.

Key principles/research to support this approach

National Literacy Trust
Premier League Reading Stars
The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)
"Supporting the Attainment of Disadvantaged Pupils: Articulating success and good practice"
NCTL Closing The Gap: Test and Learn research report
Winter 2016 Richard Churches (Education Development Trust)

For more information contact:

Peter Hayes - Assistant Head, Woodbrook Vale School
Jo Beaumont – Headteacher, Thorpe Acre Junior School
Premier League Reading Stars

