

Reading at Kensington Queensmill

At Kensington Queensmill reading and access to written and spoken word is part of our daily practice and built into all aspects of the curriculum.

Many students when joining Kensington Queensmill have a unique starting point and communication of all forms can be confusing and challenging. Reading is used every day in a variety of presentations and activities to support the following:

- Social communication
- Emotional regulation and well-being
- Access to an understanding of the world around us
- Functional communication
- Communication initiation and receptive understanding
- An improved lived experience

Our key interventions; Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), TEACCH, social stories, comic-strip conversations, colourful semantics, Proloquo2go all require students to use and apply reading skills by recognising pictures, symbols, words and their meanings.

The Reading Curriculum

Intent

To provide every student with functional reading skills they need for a successful life post-school. At whichever functional level is appropriate for each learner we intend to give every student the ability to read and comprehend pictures, symbols and the written word as a pathway to positive community access and valuation, and if appropriate meaningful employment.

Implementation

Reading is delivered across the school curriculum and school day, through both functional and recreational activities, examples of how this may be achieved are listed below:

- Requesting and commenting using PECS and colourful semantics
- Focused teaching: Phonics schemes and programmes, letter of the week, Reading Eggs and incorporating student's special interests
- Core autism practice such as PECS, TEACCH, visual structures and strategies
- The provision of a total communication approach and environment
- Reading for purpose and reading for meaning such as following recipes, instructions, shopping lists, signs in the community and rules and expectations
- Thematic and cross-curricular teaching: Big books, comprehension of concepts through visuals, understanding and reading number, reading for information, access to libraries and the community
- Functional use and understanding of technology

Impact

Students experienced increase social communication and emotional regulation skills. This prepares for a happy and fulfilling life after school where functional reading, relevant to them, provides a platform for community access, meaningful employment, wellbeing and personal fulfilment.