Sawston Village College
Reading Testing Policy

Introduction

At Sawston Village College, we are committed to ensuring that every pupil leaves us feeling confident and able to express themselves precisely and appropriately, ready for further study and the world of work. Reading is fundamental to that aim.

Current national figures suggest that 1 in 4 children are leaving primary school without achieving expected levels in reading, and many of those are then leaving secondary school with functional illiteracy.

Studies have shown that most GCSE exam papers require a reading age of 15 years and 7 months, presenting a significant barrier to pupils without that expected reading age.

A pupil's reading age should ideally match or exceed their chronological age and it is important we do all we can to support pupils in achieving that.

Reading Testing Programme

To monitor pupil reading progress, we undertake reading tests during Year 7 and 8. The programme runs as follows:

a) Initial reading tests will be conducted during the first fortnight in September for Year 7 pupils, and in the first half term for Year 8 students.
    a. A sift test will be issued for pupils achieving reading age scores lower than chronological age to confirm the reading age and secure an accurate judgement
b) A second reading test will be conducted during the second Spring term for all pupils in Year 7 and 8 to review progress.
    a. A sift test will be issued for pupils presenting data anomalies in their results at this stage
c) Reading tests may be conducted at our discretion with pupils in other year groups as deemed appropriate by SEND and/or English staff.
d) Additional reading tests will be conducted among SEND pupils as appropriate to monitor SEND interventions with an understanding of the overall testing program to avoid over-testing. Reading ages are recorded on Student Information Sheets for pupils highlighted as SEND so that all teachers across the curriculum are aware of literacy levels within their classes.