



STAR Reading is an online reading test used to measure your child's reading ability. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes around 20 minutes. The test helps to track your child's reading progress and provides an up-to-date Reading Age.

STAR Reading tests produce two important pieces of information:

- 1) Reading Age – an estimate of a child's reading ability, in reference to an average age at which a comparable ability is found. e.g. if your child has a Reading Age of 13 years, this means they have the reading ability of an average 13 year old. Reading Age does not always correlate with a child's actual age.
- 2) Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) – This indicates the difficulty level of books your child should be reading – books that are neither too easy nor too overly challenging. Books in the school library are colour coded and categorised according to how challenging they are to read, starting at Book Level 0.9 and going up to Book Levels of 8+. Your child will receive a ZPD Range (e.g. Book Level 4.5 to 6.9), meaning they will have a wide and varied selection of books to choose from. Reading books within their ZPD Range will reduce the possibility of your child getting bored or frustrated with what they are reading and increase the likelihood of their reading ability improving.

The below link to the education endowment foundation provides 7 tips on how to support your child's reading at home. Hurstmere School works alongside the EEF through the literacy transition project; a borough wide collective approach on raising standards of literacy in our young people.

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for schools/7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19%20Resources/Resources%20for%20schools/7%20Top%20Tips%20to%20Support%20Reading%20at%20Home.pdf)

Of course we are supporting your son's reading at school too. As well as specific training for all teachers on meeting the needs of pupils with differing reading ages in lessons we have additionally:

- Tested all pupils' reading ages and shared these with all teachers (reviewed annually)
- Incorporated Drop Everything And Listen (DEAL) to form times whereby the form collectively read aspirational novels together and discuss them
- Use Accelerated Reader throughout KS3 to give all boys aspirational, reading age pitched texts to push their reading further with fortnightly dedicated reading time in the library for the boys
- Introduced knowledge organisers for all units in every subject to support the development of their 'disciplinary vocabulary' – so that they have the opportunity to pre-learn the specific vocabulary which may slow their reading
- Put specific interventions in place for the boys with reading ages significantly below their chronological age