

# Stoke-on-Trent Library Service

## Stock Strategy: Children and Young People's Service

### **Introduction**

We aim to provide excellent collections of books in our libraries in order to develop and foster a lifelong love of reading. These collections are well maintained and replenished and responsive to the changing needs of our customers. Our staff are well trained in using the collections to advise and encourage young readers.

Stoke-on-Trent Libraries aims to ensure that the range and quality of stock provision within its libraries meets the social, developmental, educational, cultural and general interest needs of all children and young people from birth to age 16 years who live in, study in, or visit the city.

### **Stock provided for children and young people should:**

- Support children and young people's language and reading development
- Encourage and support reading for purpose and pleasure
- Be appropriate for differing age, developmental and ability levels
- Support and develop information literacy both for formal and curiosity driven learning
- Develop children and young people's personal, social and cultural awareness.
- Reflect positive images relating to race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, religion or belief.
- Provide a range of formats that will offer access for everyone, including large print, audio and digital formats.
- Reflect the needs of children and young people with English as an additional language.
- Reflect the needs of the communities they serve.
- Provide good value for money whilst meeting rigorous quality standards.

### **Selection/Acquisition of Stock**

A team approach is used for the selection of children and young people's stock.

The Principal Librarian, Children and Young People's Services along with the Librarians Team select stock from the approved supplier on a rota basis. The following criteria are used for selection.

- Popularity
- Quality
- Presentation
- Currency
- Value for Money
- Relevance

### **Stock Maintenance**

Stock for Children and Young People is regularly reviewed and revised to ensure relevance and appeal. Old and/or damaged stock is regularly removed from shelves to be discarded for sale or transferred.

### **Display and Presentation**

The presentation of stock is crucial for its appeal – stock for children and young people is displayed and presented in an attractive way that makes for ease of accessibility. Signage is clear, user friendly and age appropriate. Stock for different age groups is appropriately displayed (e.g. board and picture books displayed in purpose built, attractive and user friendly units.)

### **Range**

The Children and Young People's service provides a full range of materials suitable from birth to age 16 years in both fiction and non-fiction categories. This involves offering a selection of materials in different formats e.g. large print, dyslexia friendly books, audio visual, digital.

### **Promotion**

A year round activities programme assists in promoting the library stock to children, young people, and their families. This includes reader development campaigns (e.g. Summer Reading Challenge), visits to the library, visits to schools and early years establishments, story and rhyme times and other relevant activities. Children and young people therefore have the opportunity to participate in a range of fun reading and book based activities.

### **Participation/Consultation**

Where appropriate, Stoke-on-Trent Libraries will seek to engage young people by consulting them on service developments which affect them and giving them the opportunity to select stock for themselves and their peer groups. Volunteering opportunities also exist enabling young people to participate in reader development activities for this client group.

CL/JS 1012.