



LETTER CIRCULAR

Date: 25th October 2021 **Ref:** DLAP 295/2021
To: All Heads of College Network and Heads of State Primary Schools
From: David Muscat – CEO, National Literacy Agency
Subject: Guidelines for implementing Guided Reading during COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, State Primary School teachers are advised to follow these guidelines if they decide to implement whole class guided reading.

Determining children's reading level

In order to support each child's development of reading, teachers are to choose each pupil's book according to the child's reading level. The teacher is to refer to the latest Reading Running Record taken, where available, unless there is an indication that the child has improved or regressed. Should the teacher feel the need to conduct a Reading Running Record in the present circumstances, this may be taken by the teacher by keeping the text in his/her hands or by using the Easy View. The use of a roll-up vertical screen or another screen is highly recommended during the individual assessment of reading.

Giving out/ Collecting books

The book is handed directly by the teacher to each child and therefore, books are not passed around in class. After the guided reading session, the child should put the book under his/her desk or in the child's storage space where it shall be kept until the next guided reading session. Guided reading books may be taken home. Once the book is read over a number of guided reading sessions, the child puts it in a special storage box placed in the classroom.

Procedure of Guided Reading Sessions

Children read independently and each child keeps his/her book until s/he finishes reading it. The teacher supports some children where possible. The use of graphic organizers, prompt cards or any other resources typically used prior to or after reading is recommended during guided reading sessions.

Location of books

Books shall be located in a room/office from where the teacher can easily collect them according to the reading levels of her/his pupils. The teacher returns the special storage box with the books that have been read to this room/office. Then the Literacy Link Person or his/her delegate labels and dates the storage box and the box is placed aside. After 3 days the books are put back on their respective shelf.

Digital books

Books used for whole class guided reading may include levelled eBooks, for example Oxford Owl (<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk>), Bug Club (www.activelearnprimary.co.uk), Literacy Pro (emea.scholastic.com/en/literacy-pro), PM (<https://www.folens.ie/literacy-resources/pm-ecollection>), Rising Stars (<https://www.risingstars-uk.com/subjects/digital/digital-platforms/reading-planet-online-library/>), Octavo (www.octavo.app) and Qari għal Qalbi (<https://www.octavo.app/en/store/collections/>). Schools may purchase eBooks that are not free of charge through 'L-Għodda f'Idejk' scheme of the National Literacy Agency.

Should you have any queries please contact the Head of Department for Literacy in your College or Mr David Muscat, on 25982907, or by email on david.muscat.4@ilearn.edu.mt.

Thank you for your attention.

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