

How to find out more

The School Library Association has an interactive map that will show you your nearest Schools Library Service and how to contact them. Use this link to find out more. <https://www.sla.org.uk/sls-map.php>

SLS-UK is also there for you. <https://schoolslibraryservicesuk.org/> Provides more information about what is on offer as well as details of the School Library Awards, Reading Roadmap and support for your library management system.



What librarians/teachers have said

"I would like to thank the Schools Library Service tremendously for doing such a fabulous job. This service has enriched my classroom beyond belief. I am extremely grateful for the effort and care taken when responding to my requests. Thank you many times over."

"I use the library for every topic, it is an invaluable source. I try to visit the library in person when I have release time from school but being able to order resources online is absolutely wonderful and staff are also very helpful on the phone too."

"The meeting today really helped spark up my enthusiasm again! Thanks for a lovely, positive meeting today."

"Thanks for your support, I really appreciate having you on the other end of an e-mail."

"Thanks for a great meeting today. I came away feeling very motivated!"

"I've just read the notes you sent me last week! They were absolutely fantastic! Such inspiring articles and useful posters, thank you so much."



Schools Library Services: an introduction

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What is a Schools Library Service?

Schools Library Services are one of the many services offered to schools - all levels - by local authorities. The way each service operates varies considerably from authority to authority.

What will a Schools Library Service do?

A Schools Library Service will:

- Advise schools and provide training on managing and developing their own school libraries and teaching resources in schools
- Teach inquiry-based learning (information literacy) skills to enable children to become independent learners
- Help schools create a reading culture.
- Lend or make available for purchase carefully chosen resources to support teaching and learning in the classroom

Some will:-

- Send librarians out to co-teach in the classroom
- Provide an essential support network particularly for solo librarians - a 'critical friend'
- Organise a range of creative literature events to promote reading for pleasure

Who runs a Schools Library Service and who pays for it?

The service is run by experienced qualified librarians who know how schools work, have knowledge of the curriculum and of children's literature. Again, there are variations around the country. On the whole, schools subscribe to their local Schools Library Service for the services. Some authorities pay for the Service from central funds, so it is free at the point of delivery to schools.

Range of services offered:

- Running a school library – assistance with library policies and development plans
- Library design: Setting up a new library or refurbishing an existing one
- Buying the right books – stock management and development
- Advice on library IT systems
- Planning and undertaking self-evaluation – 'critical friend'
- Advocacy - assistance with raising the profile of the library within school
- Staff recruitment and selection
- Staff training/librarian training & support
- Professional librarians in primary schools
- Pre and post OFSTED support
- Help with setting up and running reading groups
- Local book awards and author visits
- Classroom/Topic resources
- Reading For Pleasure activities and book lists
- Digital resources
- Artefacts
- Ebook platforms
-plus lots more!

Benefits of using a Schools Library Service:

- Tailored to individual school needs
- Flexible services which are easy to access
- Proactive and innovative services geared to the needs of schools, staff and pupils
- Specialist and practical help
- Quick and easy access to a wide range of high-quality resources
- Cost-effective services making the most of your budget
- Access to key reports, new research and publications
- Loan of professional resources
- CPD for new and existing staff - primary and secondary
- For secondary schools, regular CPD sessions providing networking opportunities with other library professionals; sharing good practice.....
- Save schools/librarians considerable time and money