



September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Upper Years Books

We would like to draw your attention to the range of books we have in our Learning Resource Centre and how staff and parents/carers can manage pupils' access to age appropriate content.

The content of some of our books may not always be suitable for younger pupils. We rely on information which is widely available to classify most of our books into age related categories as detailed with the enclosed information about our library website. These categories do not necessarily reflect the difficulty of the vocabulary or grammar in a book, or suitability for a child's reading ability or level, but are an indication of whether the book contains descriptions of a sexual or violent nature, or the use of strong language, and also its social or emotional content.

Children develop at different rates and some are ready for more mature content sooner than others. Higher reading ability books tend to have more mature content and we would not wish to hold back very able readers by restricting the books available to them.

For a pupil in Year 9 we would consider what we know about the pupil and what we know about a particular book, designated as Upper Years (UY), before issuing it.

By default we do not loan any book designated as 'Upper Years' to pupils in Years 7 or 8. This presents a few dilemmas as this would include some of the Harry Potter series, Holes by Louis Sachar, books by Darren Shan, JRR Tolkien and Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series.

If you would like your child to be able to borrow books with the Upper Years designation whilst still in Year 7 or 8, please complete the reply slip below and return it as soon as possible. You must be aware however that this will also give your child access to books more suited to older teens up to age 16, and we would ask you therefore to monitor what your child is reading.

Some books remain unclassified and we continue to monitor the issue of these to younger pupils. If you have any concerns about the suitability of any book for your child please do not hesitate to contact us.

To assist you further please see the enclosed information regarding access to our library website.

Yours sincerely

Ms C Hunter
Learning Resource Centre Manager

Ms E Chillington
Faculty Leader, English



Reply Slip HUN

Upper Years Books

Pupil: _____

Form: _____

***I give consent** for my child to borrow Upper Years books from the Titus Salt Learning Resource Centre. I understand that this may include books with content unsuitable for younger readers and I am happy to monitor this.

***I do not consent** to my child borrowing Upper Years books in Years 7 & 8.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer) Date: _____

***Please delete whichever is not applicable and return the reply slip to the LRC as soon as possible**



Telephone: 01274 258969

Fax: 01274 258970

Web: www.titussaltschool.co.uk

Email: enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk

What do the codes mean?

LY (Lower Years) These books have *content* deemed suitable for pupils aged 5-8 (Yrs 1-4)

MY (Middle Years) These books have *content* deemed suitable for pupils aged 9-13 (Yrs 5-9)

UY (Upper Years) These books have *content* deemed suitable for pupils aged 14+ (Yrs 10+)

- Whilst these are recommended ages, at Titus Salt we generally loan UY books to pupils in Year 9 and above.
- UY books may contain mature content such as strong language , descriptions of sex, violence, physical/emotional abuse, substance abuse etc.
- We monitor what each child borrows as carefully as we can but would encourage you to be aware of what your child is reading and contact us if you feel a book is not suitable.

Please note: These categories are not an indicator of reading ability. For example it is possible to have a book which is UY but has simple vocabulary and sentence structure, and vice versa.

If your son or daughter is in Year 7 or 8 and you would like them to have access to UY books please complete and return the reply slip at the bottom of the attached letter. If you do not return the slip your child will only be able to borrow books labelled LY or MY.



You and your child may access the school's library website by typing **into the address bar** of your browser: <https://u013593.microlibrarian.net>

You will be able to use the search function to see what books we have available and to read reviews. The site also contains links to websites containing subject matter, suitable for secondary school pupils, which will help to research topics for homework.

During the autumn term all Year 7 pupils will be shown how to log in to their own personal Reading Cloud library account. This will allow them to check their current loans and you will be able to see their loan history. They will also be able to write reviews which are then published on the site for other pupils to read.

Once your child has logged in and updated their password on the desktop interface they will also be able to access the site on most mobile devices via the iMLS app.

We hope your child can find a wide range of enjoyable and challenging books throughout their time at Titus Salt. We encourage them to make suggestions for new additions to our library so that we always have an appealing selection available across all genres and reading levels. We also hope the library website helps you to engage with your child's reading.