



## Learning Resource Centre – Library Loans Information: 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. 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 reply to the ParentMail form sent to parents/carers of all Y7 pupils or ask for a printed response form. 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

**If your son or daughter is in Year 7 or 8 and you have been sent a permission form via ParentMail please respond so that it is clear to us whether you wish your child to have access to UY books or not.**

### 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 without asking for parental consent.
- 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.**