

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 17th January 2023

SCHOOLS' LIBRARY SERVICE (SLS)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Schools Forum with an overview of the services the Schools' Library Service provides and the service plans for the year ahead.

2. BUDGET

The Schools' Library Service is a de-delegated service, mainly for primary schools, although other schools can access services on request. Funding from the Schools' Forum provides £185,100 at a cost of £8.78 per primary school pupil from maintained schools. Academies have the opportunity to buy into the service and any extra income generated is used to help maintain the service for all schools. The make-up of the complete budget is shown below.

2022-223 Budget

Staffing	£96,300
Other costs including book fund	£58,824
Support Services Recharge	£29,976
TOTAL	£185,100

Additional Income generated

Income Secondary Schools	£500
Income Academies	£3,998
Income Premium Service	£2,500
Income Special Schools	£1,102
TOTAL	£8,100

3. 2022-23 update and future priorities.

With the closure of 8 local public libraries SLS is proving to be more essential than ever for schools. The service has seen a definite increase in requests with issues now above pre-covid levels. In September 2022 SLS loaned almost 25,000 books and other resources to schools for the autumn term. We expect our statistics to show similar issues for the 2023 spring and summer terms.

- In response to demand we have increased our offer to include 'reading for pleasure boxes' which have been very popular, with 96% of maintained schools asking for them.
- SLS has also seen an increase in schools asking for help with their own school libraries. This year alone we have five schools booked in for consultations and support to revamp school libraries. Staffing constraints limit the number of schools we can assist per year.
- We are open to teaching staff term time and holidays and hope to arrange open evenings in the coming year. We have also been asked if local schools can use the SLS base for staff meetings.
- Our artefact collections are more popular than ever, and additional new loan offers of such things as coding sets, chess and PE resources have been welcomed and fully booked each term.
- We will continue to maintain our current level of book, artefact loans and audio-visual resource provision for schools as a standard service, ensuring our book stock, resources and offers to all schools remain relevant and up to date.
- We have received requests for training from schools and hope to develop some training offers around books, literacy and library provision in the coming year.
- We currently have one secondary school using our Year 7 Transition service and we hope to encourage other secondary schools to buy in. We will be holding secondary school librarian meetings at our base in the future to further promote the service to all schools. We have had a lot of interest.
- We have maintained uptake from academies and continue to encourage all Wirral academies to buy into the service.
- Wirral SLS is now part of a national SLS-UK offer promoting School Library Services, creating the opportunity for schools in the Liverpool area to buy into Wirral SLS.
- This year we said farewell to one of our librarians, Christine Taylor, after 43 years of service with Wirral Schools' Library Service. We would like to wish her a long and happy retirement and to extend a very warm welcome to our new librarian, Annabel Leinster.

- We extend an invitation to any interested School Forum members to visit SLS to see what we do and how much our service has to offer.

4. STAFFING

There are currently 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ FTE members of staff:

2 x 0.50 Schools' Librarian - Job share

1 x 0.75 Assistant Schools' Librarian - $\frac{3}{4}$ post

1 x 1.00 Library Manager- FTE post

Additional temporary staff members are employed three times a year to help facilitate the collection and delivery of resources to and from schools at the beginning and end of each term.

The service is based at:

Joseph Paxton Campus

157 Park Rd North,

Cloughton

CH41 0DD

0151 666 3200

Please see our entry in the Wirral Traded Services Brochure for more information on the service we offer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum notes the report

Louise Rice and Catherine McNally
Wirral Schools' Library Service