To do well at school, every student needs a professional librarian who provides...

**QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

- Does the school have a library with access for all students before, during and after school?
- Is it run by a professionally qualified, chartered librarian?
- Do students have the opportunity to visit the library regularly to borrow books?
- Do students engage in activities to promote reading for pleasure?
- Is it used by all students to develop research and enquiry skills?
- Is it large enough to seat at least a whole class as a group?
- Does it support all abilities, cultures and individual needs?
- Can all students use the library for private study and reading?
- Does it have a wide range of printed materials, books, magazines and newspapers and access to the internet and electronic resources?
- What can current students tell you about the library and its use?

**Next steps**

**If you are a parent:**
We recommend that you ask questions about the school libraries you visit.

**If you are a governor:**
Recognise the contribution that the librarian makes to inspiring student's reading, supporting their literacy and developing their information skills; identify a link governor for the library.

**If you would like to find out more about what makes a good school library:**
Visit: www.cilip.org.uk/slg
Email: slg@cilip.org.uk
"16-year-olds who read books at least once a month were significantly more likely to be in a professional or managerial job at 33 than those who didn't read books at all."

Oxford University study reported in The Guardian, 07.04.2011

"Many of the imaginative programmes to encourage reading that inspectors see are inspired by a good librarian."

Improving literacy in secondary schools: a shared responsibility (Ofsted, April 2013)

"1 in 5 leaves secondary school without being able to read or write with confidence."

Evening Standard, 31.05.11

"The growth in the internet, 24-hour television and mobile phones means that we now receive 5 times as much information every day as we did in 1986."

Daily Telegraph 11.2.11

"Only one third of 9-19 year olds have been taught how to judge the reliability of online information"

p5 Truth, Lies and the Internet, Demos, 2011

"The best school libraries do ALL of these things..."