

...DOES YOURS?

## QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does the school have a library with access for all students before, during and after school? | <input type="checkbox"/> Is it large enough to seat at least a whole class as a group?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is it run by a professionally qualified, chartered librarian?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Does it support all abilities, cultures and individual needs?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do students have the opportunity to visit the library regularly to borrow books?             | <input type="checkbox"/> Can all students use the library for private study and reading?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do students engage in activities to promote reading for pleasure?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Does it have a wide range of printed materials, books, magazines and newspapers and access to the internet and electronic resources? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is it used by all students to develop research and enquiry skills?                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 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](http://www.cilip.org.uk/slg)  
Email: [slg@cilip.org.uk](mailto:slg@cilip.org.uk)

The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), is the leading professional body for librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers in the UK.

**cilip**  
Chartered Institute of  
Library and Information  
Professionals



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



## Support and encouragement for their reading from someone who:

- is an expert in contemporary fiction for young people
- knows how to find the right book for each individual



## A welcoming and safe place to:

- read, browse, study or learn before, during and after school hours
- get help with homework
- take on roles of responsibility within the school community
- access guidance and support from other adults
- develop their skills to become lifelong learners

"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

"One girl's parents told me that the library is of utmost importance in [their] daughter developing her confidence in herself and she knows that she can be herself, challenge herself and try new things in the library."

(UK Survey of School Libraries, 2010 in App.3 of Commission submission)

## Advice and instruction from an expert on using information in today's world so that students:

- can look beyond the most widely used search engines to find the best material for their needs and search the internet safely
- know how to evaluate and use resources wisely and use information ethically
- are prepared for further study at college, university and for the rest of their life

Ann Robinson, Director of Public Awareness at the Information Standard, said:

"We want all young people to understand how to spot a trustworthy site. Just because it ranks high in the search engine, for example, does not mean that it will provide informed advice."

BBC 09.09.2011

## Resources and equipment that are:

- current
- appropriate to their age and ability
- in good condition and fit for purpose
- accessible
- relevant to their courses and interests



"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...