MARCH 2025 EDITION

TOTAL TOPICS

TOTAL TRAINING PROVISION

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

Literacy

LITERACY

What is it?

Literacy is the ability to read and write, but it goes beyond just these basic skills. It includes understanding, interpreting, and engaging with written texts in various forms, such as books, digital media, and other written materials. Literacy also involves effective communication through writing and the ability to use information in meaningful ways.

UK Statistics

Children and Young People: Only about **1 in 3 children** in the UK enjoy reading, and fewer than **3 in 10 enjoy writing** in their free time. Book ownership is a strong predictor of reading performance, yet **1 in 10 children** do not have a book of their own at home.

Adults: Approximately **6.6 million people** in England, have very poor literacy skills. This means they can understand short, straightforward texts but struggle with more complex information.

Support available to improve literacy skills

National Literacy Trust: They offer a variety of programs aimed at improving reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills for children, young people, and adults. Their interventions are designed to support those in disadvantaged communities.

Local Libraries: Many libraries provide literacy support, including reading groups, access to educational materials, and sometimes even one-on-one tutoring. They are a great local resource for improving literacy skills.

Online Resources: Websites like BBC Skillswise offer free materials and activities to help improve reading and writing skills.

Adult Education Colleges: These institutions often offer courses specifically designed to help adults improve their literacy skills.
Here at TTP we offer a range of courses to support English skills and more information can be found here.

Volunteer Organisations: Organisations such as ProLiteracy and Adult Literacy Trust provide volunteer tutoring and support for individuals looking to improve their literacy.

Find out more about literacy here.

LITERACY

Health & Wellbeing

Literacy skills have a significant impact on health and well-being. Here are some key points:

Health Literacy

This refers to the ability to access, understand, review, and use health information to make informed decisions about health care. Higher health literacy is associated with better health outcomes, as individuals can effectively navigate the healthcare system, understand medical instructions, and manage chronic conditions.

Mental Health

Literacy can improve mental health by reducing stress and anxiety. Being able to read and understand information about mental health can help individuals recognise symptoms, seek appropriate help, and follow treatment plans.

Preventive Health

Literate individuals are more likely to engage in preventive health behaviours, such as regular exercise, healthy eating, and routine medical check-ups. They can better understand the importance of these activities and how to implement them in their daily lives.

Empowerment and Self-Efficacy

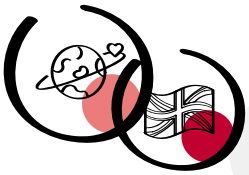
Literacy empowers individuals by giving them the confidence to make informed health decisions. It enhances self-efficacy, which is the belief in one's ability to take control of their health and well-being.

Improving literacy skills can thus have a profound impact on both individual and public health, leading to healthier, more informed communities.

Find out more about Health Literacy here.

LITERACY

EDI & British Values



Inequalities in literacy skills can occur for a number of ways in the UK. Here are some key facts:

Adult Literacy: Approximately **1 in 6 (16.4%)** adults in England have very low literacy skills, meaning they may struggle with longer texts and unfamiliar topics. This impacts their employment opportunities and earnings, with low-literacy workers earning about 7.1% less than those with basic literacy skills.

Geographic Disparities: Literacy inequality is often geographic. Individuals living in deprived areas are more likely to lack basic literacy and numeracy skills. For example, a girl born in a area with significant literacy challenges may live **20.9 years shorter** than one born in a area with fewer literacy challenges.

Impact on Life Chances: Literacy inequalities contribute to broader social and economic disparities, affecting health, well-being, and social mobility. Adults with low literacy skills are at greater risk of unemployment or being in low-paid work.

Addressing these inequalities requires targeted interventions to address literacy inequalities and promote fair access to education and resources.

LITERACY

Safeguarding & Prevent

Poor literacy skills increase safeguarding risks by making it difficult for individuals to understand important safety information, access support services, and recognise digital threats. They may struggle with communication, leading to underreporting of abuse, and face social isolation and dependency, which heightens vulnerability to exploitation. Improving literacy is crucial for enhancing personal safety and reducing these risks.

Find out more about safeguarding at TTP here and how you can report a concern.

Shout Out UK (SOUK) is a social enterprise dedicated to promoting political and media literacy. They provide educational programs and workshops to help individuals understand government functions and critically evaluate information, aiming to create informed and engaged citizens. Additionally, SOUK uses media and political literacy to counter extremism and radicalisation, creating engaging and results-driven Prevent programs.

LITERACY

Digital

Digital literacy is the ability to effectively and critically navigate, evaluate, and create information using a range of digital technologies. It encompasses several key skills:

Digital Citizenship: Understanding the ethical and responsible use of technology, including online privacy, security, and digital etiquette.

Problem-Solving: Using digital tools to solve problems and complete tasks efficiently.

Technical Proficiency: Understanding how to use digital devices (computers, smartphones, tablets) and software applications (word processors, spreadsheets, presentation tools).

Information Literacy: The ability to find, evaluate, and use information from digital sources. This includes assessing the credibility of websites and online content.

Communication and Collaboration: Using digital tools to communicate (email, social media, messaging apps) and collaborate (online meetings, shared documents) with others.

Content Creation: Creating digital content such as text, images, videos, and multimedia presentations. This also involves understanding copyright and ethical use of digital materials.

Digital literacy is essential in today's world, as it enables individuals to participate fully in society, access information, and engage in lifelong learning. It also enhances employability and helps individuals adapt to the rapidly changing digital landscape.

6TH MARCH 2025

World Book Day

World Book Day 2025 will be celebrated on **Thursday, 6 March 2025**.

The annual event is dedicated to promoting reading for pleasure, celebrating authors, illustrators, and books. It's a fantastic opportunity for children and young people to discover the joy of reading and to have a book of their own.

Find out more about World Book Day and how you can get involved here.

Some highlights for this year's celebration:

The Great Big Footy & Booky Quiz: A fun event for children aged 8 to 12, combining football and reading-themed questions.

£1 Books and Tokens: Specially selected books available for £1, with tokens distributed to schools.

Ultimate Character Champion Battle: A new classroom activity encouraging students to discuss and present their favourite book characters.

MARCH 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
British Science Week (7th - 16th) Food Waste Action Week (18th - 24th)					1	2
3 World Wildlife Day	4 Pancake Day	5	6 World Book Day	7	8 International Women's Day	9
10 Common-wealth Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Spring Equinox	21 Red Nose Day	22	23
24	25	26 Purple Day	27	28	29	30 Mother's Day
31						