

Letterbox Club: A Practitioner's Guide

Not every child has ready-access to books they can call their own and this is particularly the case for looked-after children.

BookTrust's Letterbox Club is a national programme for children aged 3-13, specifically for those who are vulnerable or looked-after. This guide will help explain the key aspects of Letterbox Club for you, your school leaders and other colleagues.



What is Letterbox club

The Letterbox club has been running for more than 15 years and in 2019, we were able to reach more than 11,500 vulnerable children, such as those in or on the edge of care, or previously looked after.

The programme provides them with parcels full of high quality books and resources, to help encourage reading and learning.

Letterbox Club can help looked-after students to:

- Build their confidence in reading, maths and their self-esteem
- Feel remembered, valued and excited about receiving their parcels
- Spend time with their carers/families and peers to share stories and play games
- Have continuity through receiving their parcels despite any placement moves



What do teachers and parents say about Letterbox Club?

What will students get?

Each child registered will receive six parcels, with a total of up to 14 fiction and non-fiction books, 10 maths games, around 40 items of stationery and other resources.

All the books are selected by an independent panel of experts, including virtual school practitioners, foster carers, teachers, and people who are care-experienced. A wide range of genres are included in the parcels, based on their suitability for children who are looked-after and their accessibility for the age range.

How can schools pay for this?

Many schools purchase Letterbox Club through the Pupil Premium Grant (Ever 6 FSM and Ever 5 Service Children), or the Pupil Premium Plus allocation.

It's with thanks to generous discounts from publishers and suppliers, that we are able to offer the programme at a price of £145 per child. The approximate RRP of the six parcels is £220.

'Letterbox Club helps us support the transition [between year groups] by encouraging children to engage with reading and numbers over the school holidays. I have already recommended the Letterbox Club to other schools and will continue to do so. I am grateful that there is a resource like this that we can order knowing that the children are going to get quality resources.'

- Jill MacLauchlan, Headteacher, Westfield Infant School

'[Letterbox Club] covered a good age range for my children. The books have been brilliant, [my child] is more willing to do reading and homework now.'

- Letterbox Club parent

How do I register?

Register your students online at booktrust.org.uk/letterbox by phone on **020 7801 8800** or by email at letterbox@booktrust.org.uk.



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