

Annual Report 2025

DORSET READING PARTNERS



“This regular and extended reading session really supports the academic progress of the children, some of whom are not read with or to. The volunteers foster a love of books and reading in the children and give them the gift of becoming readers, which in turn fuels their confidence and self esteem.”

Class teacher, Lilliput Infant School

Registered charity no. 1116404

Charity Details

Objectives

- 1) To advance the education of children in Dorset, particularly by helping with their reading development,
- 2) To advance the education of volunteers, by the provision of advice and training.

Activities Undertaken for Public Benefit

Dorset Reading Partners recruits, trains, supports and equips literacy volunteers who provide regular, sustained, one-to-one support to local children in order to help them with their reading development. Reading partners work in primary schools with children, aged between 4 - 11, identified by their teachers as requiring extra support or nurturing. Our focus is on increasing children's motivation and confidence and improving their wellbeing, as well as developing their language and reading skills.

Trustees

The board of trustees oversees the management of the Charity as well as providing support & guidance to staff, and meets four times a year.

Alison Debenham

Heather Maddox

Bryan Stubbs

Heather Shore

Honorary Treasurer

Jackie Taylor AAT

Staff

Staff work part-time, during term-time only.

Charity Manager

Juliet Ruddick

Volunteer & Development Manager

Bonnie Stevens

Volunteer Coordinator

Sarah Parry

Volunteer Coordinator

Sally Pegg

Office

The Little Keep

Barrack Road

Dorchester DT1 1SQ

01305 458515

www.dorsetreadingpartners.org.uk

Activities May 24 - April 25

During the year the Charity has:

- * Recruited and trained 21 new volunteer reading partners
- * Started working in four new schools
- * Supported volunteers with regular contact, termly newsletters and annual school visits
- * Held book exchanges and hosted volunteer coffee mornings in various venues
- * Delivered ongoing training through a series of workshops, as well as tailored refresher training for our volunteers
- * Issued 350 personalised end of year certificates to our supported pupils (July 2024)
- * Collaborated with the charity Room To Reward to offer hotel breaks (at no cost to us) to volunteers achieving ten years of service

At the end of April 2025, the charity has 79 volunteer reading partners in 59 schools across Dorset, supporting around 330 children.

I saw one of the very first children I read with today. She is all grown up and was on her way home from work. She said she thought my influence must have stuck because she loves her job and is . . a Librarian!

Jackie, Portland

I am blown away by how incredible it has been. The children are always excited to see me, and love the books, games and resources that are provided.

Sue, Wimborne

The interview process, the training and introduction to the school were full of support and very professional. All my volunteering experience with Dorset Reading Partners has been amazing, rewarding and I have always been feeling supported.

Katarzyna, Bournemouth

**What
Volunteers
Say**

Annual Accounts

DORSET READING PARTNERS Receipts and Payments to 30th April 2025

	30th April 2025			30th April 2024	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Receipts					
Contributions from schools	9245	0	9245	11332	0
Grants/Donations	21490	0	21490	14328	600
Gift aid	1250	0	1250	1319	0
Total Receipts	31985	0	31985	26979	600
Payments					
Insurance	250	0	250	212	0
Equipment/Furniture	20	0	20	0	0
Travel Expenses	1513	0	1513	878	0
Employee costs	23177	0	23177	20084	0
Office/General costs	786	0	786	417	0
Premises costs	2823	0	2823	1948	0
Telephone/Internet/Subscriptions	1759	0	1759	987	0
Operational Costs					
Resources	844	136	980	0	889
Volunteer expenses	627	0	627	473	0
Meetings/Training/Events	501	0	501	666	0
Total Payments	32300	136	32436	25665	889
Net of Receipts/(payments)	-315	-136	-451	1314	-289
Cash funds last Year end	14718	136	14854	13404	425
Cash funds at the period end	14403	0	14403	14718	136

Prepared by Jacqueline Taylor AAP 7 May 2025

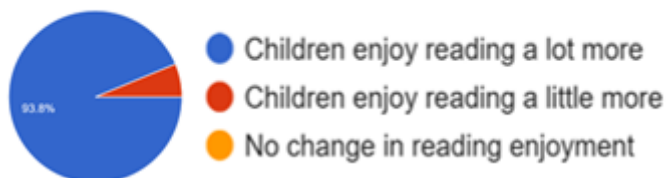
Donations & Funding

Thank you to The Valentine Trust, The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Foundation, The Yapp Charitable Trust, The Belacqua Trust, Marine Inspection Services, ADLib and our generous private donors for their support.

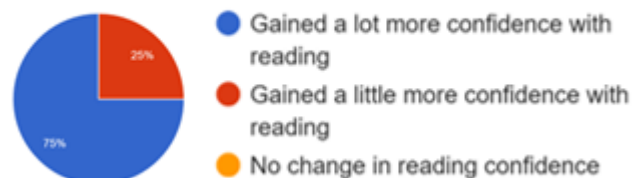
School Survey Results

JULY 2024

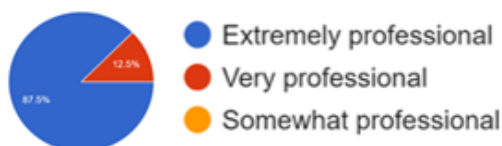
Impact on children's reading enjoyment



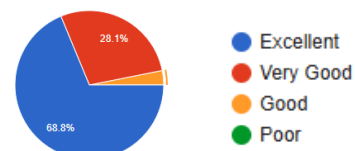
Impact on children's reading confidence



Professionalism of DRP



Quality & range of resources



Teachers' Comments

"Children are always so enthusiastic to go with DRP and come back so happily talking about books and stories."

"We have seen children who struggle with regulating behaviour and emotions really grow under the DRP volunteers. They look forward to their time with their volunteer and have built up such positive relationships with them."

"I see lots of lovely books spread out on the table before the children arrive. It looks inviting."

"It is a fantastic opportunity for the children to spend quality time reading and supports our teaching in a very positive way."

"I wish to thank you as a charity for the time that you give to our school and children. It is so valuable. I hope we can continue our partnership with you for many years to come."

"We love our DRPs and they brighten our week. We are so grateful for their time and care they put into their role."

The Year in Pictures 2024 - 2025



Initial Training to prepare volunteers for the reading partner role



Regular Book Exchanges to replenish resources



Completing The Open University Reading for Pleasure course



Ongoing training and workshops



Celebrating a decade of volunteering!



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Ian Ventham FICFM.

6th February 2026.

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