Bringing BookBenches to Stoke-on-Trent
Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the National Literacy Trust have joined forces with creative producers Wild in Art to bring their iconic BookBench sculptures to Stoke-on-Trent.

The BookBench sculptures are set to inspire the city as part of Stoke Reads, a campaign to promote reading and boost literacy levels. Supported by the City Learning Trust, Stoke Reads inspires the city to enjoy reading and helps parents and practitioners to support children’s literacy skills.

Schools, community groups and businesses in Stoke-on-Trent will have the opportunity to be involved in the unique Stoke Reads BookBench project, which will celebrate the city’s creativity and encourage children and families to talk about books and read together.

In spring 2019, decorated BookBench sculptures will be showcased in cultural and leisure venues across the city. Residents and visitors will be able to follow a trail to discover the BookBench sculptures and literacy-focused events will be held around them.
BookBenches created by schools and community groups in Manchester for the Read Manchester BookBench trail in summer 2017.
BookBench project outline

Schools and community groups are invited to decorate a BookBench sculpture made from fibreglass, with designs inspired by books, novels, comics, poems and prose. Whether based on sci-fi, a nursery rhyme, a classic or contemporary novel, the BookBench provides a blank canvas for creativity and the potential to interpret literary works in a range of different ways.

Schools will need to buy a BookBench to take part in the project, which could be achieved through fundraising. They money raised will be matched by local businesses, which will fund the logistics and management of the project.

The pupils, teachers, parents and businesses involved in the project will play a valuable role in the development of an exciting public art trail in the summer.

Once the BookBenches have been decorated they will be displayed in cultural hubs, leisure and shopping centres throughout Stoke-on-Trent. Many of the venues will host activities and events, and families will be able to discover the BookBenches by following a trail.

After the summer, the BookBenches will be returned to the schools and community groups that decorated them, where they could become a lasting feature of a library, book corner or outside learning environment.

The BookBench project also offers schools bespoke CPD opportunities from the National Literacy Trust, which enhance and align with the creative process of decorating a BookBench.

Embedding a love of reading in your classroom can be transformative to your pupils’ academic success. The Reading for Pleasure training explores a range of strategies and approaches to building enjoyment and engagement and will help you drive an improved reading culture across your school through action research.

The course will enable teachers and support staff to:

* Engage with research and understand the benefits for your pupils of reading for enjoyment
* Examine a range of approaches, including choosing and using whole texts
* Develop an action plan for creating a community of readers in your school
* Plan for embedding these successful approaches more widely across your school

To create long lasting impact, the training also draws on content that schools can access through their National Literacy Trust membership.

National Literacy Trust CPD is fully aligned with DfE Standards for Professional Development.
The role of local businesses

Businesses across Stoke-on-Trent are providing funding to enable the project to go ahead. The funding will be matched with schools’ fundraising efforts. This money will fund the logistics of transporting and varnishing the benches, creating the BookBench trail, producing marketing materials and project management.

Each school that participates in the project will be paired with a local business, whose logo/name will be included on the plaque attached to each BookBench. Representatives from the businesses involved may also want to be involved in the process of decorating the BookBench.

Key dates

20 July 2018: Interested schools and groups must complete and return the order form, stating which size sculpture and if they would like to access the National Literacy Trust training. The first 30 to confirm will be involved in the project.

October 2018: Briefing session for schools.

9 October 2018: Reading for Pleasure training starts

End of November 2018: BookBenches and resource packs delivered to schools.

End of March 2019: Decoration of all BookBenches completed.

April to June 2019: BookBenches on display across Stoke-on-Trent.

July 2019: BookBenches returned to schools and community groups.
BookBench sizes

There are two BookBench sculpture sizes:

**Large**
- H 920mm x L 1450mm x W 700mm
- (seat height 460mm)
- (suitable for 3 years old – adults)
- Weight: 36kg

**Medium**
- H 700mm x L 950mm x W 500mm
- (seat height 350mm)
- (suitable for 3 – 11 years old)
- Weight: 20kg

A plumb line from the top of the backrest to the base, including the fixing tab at the front, is 880mm

Sketch shows adult of height 175cm (5'9'’)

Both are available in our paperback package, which includes a creative education resource pack.

**Paperback packages**

- Standard medium BookBench £995 + VAT
- Standard large BookBench £1,375 + VAT

**Hardback packages**

Our hardback package offers quality Reading for Pleasure CPD training from the National Literacy Trust, in addition to the BookBench and creative education resource pack.

National Literacy Trust training per member of staff

£ Total = cost of your BookBench(es) + £400 + VAT

The Reading for Pleasure training is a three-day course for teachers working with Key Stage 2 and 3.
The dates for the sessions in Stoke-on-Trent are:

- Tuesday 9 October 2018
- Tuesday 15 January 2019
- Tuesday 12 March 2019
Project partners

The BookBench activity in Stoke-on-Trent is a Wild in Art education project brought to you by the National Literacy Trust and Stoke-on-Trent City Council as part of Stoke Reads.

**Wild in Art**

Wild in Art is a leading producer of spectacular, mass-appeal public art events that connect businesses, artists and communities. It provides unique art education resources that inspire young people and enhance learning across the curriculum. Recent events include Manchester's Bee in the City.

[www.wildinart.co.uk](http://www.wildinart.co.uk)

**National Literacy Trust**

The National Literacy Trust is an independent charity dedicated to raising literacy levels in the UK. The charity runs literacy projects in deprived communities, helps schools to transform teaching and campaigns to make literacy a priority for politicians and parents. Teachers are supported through conferences, training, interventions and National Literacy Trust membership.

The National Literacy Trust is offering a bespoke training package to teachers and will provide input into the creative education resource pack that will accompany all of the BookBench sculptures.

[www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)

**Stoke-on-Trent City Council**

Stoke-on-Trent City Council delivers more than 700 public services, from education and supporting vulnerable people, to transport and waste collection. The council is the local education authority for Stoke-on-Trent, and there are 71 primary, 16 secondary, six nursery, four special schools, and two pupil referral units in the city. The city has been named as an Opportunity Area by government, and will be investing millions of pounds over the next three years on improving life skills and educational opportunities for young people. Its pioneering Stoke Speaks Out service, which helps young children aged two to five years with speech and language therapy has won national awards for its impact on improving the school readiness for thousands of children.

[www.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.stoke.gov.uk)

**Stoke Reads**

The National Literacy Trust Hub in Stoke-on-Trent is known locally as Stoke Reads. The campaign brings together partners across the city to promote reading and boost literacy levels.

Stoke Reads was launched in February 2017 by the National Literacy Trust and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, delivered in partnership with the City Learning Trust. The campaign inspires the city to enjoy reading and helps parents to support their children's literacy skills. Schools are delivering innovative literacy projects and businesses have the opportunity to play an important role in raising literacy levels.

[www.stokereads.org.uk](http://www.stokereads.org.uk)
Get in touch

To support Stoke Reads and purchase your BookBenches, please complete the order form at stokereads.org.uk

For more information email: stoke@literacytrust.org.uk

One teacher said about the National Literacy Trust’s Reading for Pleasure training:

“I have learnt that the quality of a text matters! You cannot change a culture straight away and reading for pleasure unites students and staff. Teaching whole texts skilfully does increase pupil pleasure, knowledge and attainment.”