

BW3 Reading Mentoring

Help a young person unlock their potential

Could you give just 20 minutes a week to help a Wythenshawe young person become a more confident reader?

Reading is one of the most important skills a young person needs for success at school, in further education and eventually in the workplace.

But for some young people, reading doesn't come easily.

That's where **BW3 Reading Mentoring** comes in.

Working with schools, BW3 recruits and trains volunteers from local businesses to provide supportive, one-to-one reading mentoring to young people who need additional help.

And it's working.

Over the past two years, BW3 Reading Mentors have supported **more than 50 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils**, with some outstanding results.

Our mentoring programme has helped young people to develop their reading skills, build confidence and make measurable progress.

We have now secured **part funding to expand the programme**, allowing us to take BW3 Reading Mentoring into a **new Wythenshawe school for the 2026/27 academic year**.

Now we need your help.

We are looking for **local businesses and volunteers to become Reading Mentors** and help us give more young people the support they need.

You don't need to be a teacher.

You don't need to be a literacy expert.

You simply need to be willing to give a little of your time, build a positive relationship with a young person and help them develop their confidence.

WHAT DOES A READING MENTOR DO?

Mentors work with a young person on a one-to-one basis, using proven Turning Pages resources.

Sessions are designed to be:

- **Short and manageable** - around 30 minutes
- **Regular** - ideally once or twice a week
- **One-to-one** - giving the young person individual attention
- **Supportive** and informal - creating a safe, non-judgemental environment
- **Flexible** - working around the volunteer's availability wherever possible



The aim isn't simply to improve reading ability.

It's about helping a young person become a more **confident learner**, giving them a skill that can influence their education, future employment and everyday life.

"It's amazing to see what BW3 are doing to support literacy and the difference you are making. To hear that directly from the young people themselves was very powerful and provides them with a very solid path for the future."

Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Following a visit to St Paul's RC High School, where he met BW3 Reading Mentors and pupils.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Becoming a Reading Mentor is a fantastic opportunity to:

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Give a young person the individual support and encouragement they need to progress.

DEVELOP YOUR OWN SKILLS

Build your communication, coaching, listening and relationship-building skills.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Use your workplace skills and time to make a tangible difference to young people in Wythenshawe.

SEE THE IMPACT

Watch a young person grow in confidence and develop a skill that will benefit them throughout their life.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

1. REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Tell BW3 that you would like to become a Reading Mentor.

2. COMPLETE TRAINING

BW3 will arrange specialist training and introduce you to the Turning Pages manuals.

3. COMPLETE AN ENHANCED DBS CHECK

All mentors will need an enhanced DBS check. BW3 will support you through the process.

4. START MENTORING

You will be matched with a young person at one of our partner schools and begin regular mentoring sessions.



Could you give 20 minutes a week?

You could be the person who helps a young person discover that they can read, can learn and can succeed

WE ARE NOW RECRUITING READING MENTORS FOR 2026/27

We are particularly looking for businesses who can provide volunteers on a regular basis. If you, your colleagues or your business would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Zara at BW3:

zara@bw3.org.uk

Find out more:

www.bw3.org.uk/reading-mentoring/

Please share this opportunity with your colleagues and business network.

One volunteer. One young person. One small investment of time that could make a lifelong difference.

BW3 - Connecting business with Wythenshawe's young people.