



INSPIRING READERS. SUPPORTING SCHOOLS. SUSTAINING READING CULTURES. FROM ENGAGEMENT TO IMPACT 2026

Derby City Virtual School (DVS) and Inspire Education Library Service (ELS) work in partnership to improve opportunities and outcomes for Looked After Children and vulnerable children known to social care.

By widening access to high-quality, inclusive reading resources and inspiring reading experiences, the partnership aims to nurture lifelong readers and harness the benefits of reading for pleasure to support pupil wellbeing, engagement and academic outcomes.

AT A GLANCE



9,020

High-quality books delivered to schools supporting the curriculum and promoting reading for pleasure.

Jan 26-Aug 26



15

DVS Primaries participated in InspiREAD 2026 – celebrating 12 engaging, diverse and inclusive books.



49

Live author & illustrator events took place for DVS pupils to access.



350

Pupils and staff joined InspiREAD Live – a celebration of books, reading and creativity.

September 2026: At the time of reporting, 20 Derby City schools were participating in the partnership: 15 primary, 4 secondary and 1 special school.

ELS MEMBERSHIP - WHAT DERBY SCHOOLS TOLD US



'Belief that anyone can write / illustrate, it starts with one idea...' **Landau Forte Academy Moorhead**

'Children have chosen books to read at home based on the reading of books in the workshop... The workshops were brilliant and extremely engaging.' – **St. Peter's Junior School**

'The whole event was absolutely wonderful. It engaged our children throughout the whole day.' **Oakwood Infant and Nursery School**

"Wow – you can be cool AND write books!"
– **Young person at InspiREAD Live 2026**

100%

said InspiREAD Book Award helped inspire children's love of reading

100%

said author & illustrator events inspired pupils and increased aspirations

100%

reported having more high-quality books supporting the curriculum

100%

reported wider access to high-quality, diverse reading-for-pleasure books

100%

reported staff having increased access to networks, resources and CPD

100%

reported a positive impact on LAC and vulnerable children

86%

reported a positive impact on academic outcomes AND wellbeing