

Using Sora

What is Sora?

Sora allows children access to the Hampshire School Library Service collection of books, graphic novels, audiobooks and magazines via the Sora app or the website.



How does my child log in to Sora?

You can download the Sora app or explore it in a browser <https://soraapp.com>

Sora can also be accessed on any device/browser at <https://soraapp.com/library/hampshiresls>

How to log in:

- Click 'Find my school'
- Search for Abbotswood Junior School. It comes under 'Hampshire School Library Service'
- Click 'This is my school'.
- Select 'Abbotswood' from the drop down menu
- Click 'Sign in using Abbotswood Junior School'
- Type in your child's username

Username: firstnamelastnameYYYY@abbsch.co.uk

YYYY = year child started at Abbotswood

Year 6 = 2019

Year 5 = 2020

Year 4 = 2021

Year 3 = 2022

- Type in the password

Password: Abbotswood20

Once you have logged in once, it should remember you each time.

How can I make sure the book collection is the appropriate age group for my child?

The online collection available to children at Abbotswood has been chosen by Hampshire School Library Service and selected as appropriate for up to 12 years old. The Audience level for titles will usually say Juvenile to reflect this. However, some titles may have 'Young Adult' or 'General Adult' as their Audience level. This Audience level has been set by the publisher, but Hampshire School Library Service has made sure all titles available for children at Abbotswood are appropriate for Years 3 to 6. In addition to this, Hampshire School Library Service has added collections for each year group with their recommended books for this year e.g. 2022 Recommended Reads for Year 5. While this should mean that the content is appropriate for your child, it is important to monitor the books they are reading to ensure they are of an appropriate level. If you have any concerns, please contact the school office.

It is possible to adjust the audience level of the books even further. When you select the Explore tab, different collections of books show up. Once you have selected a Collection, you can filter the items in it by using the Filter option on the right. One option is Audience. From here you can set the audience level to only 'Juvenile'.



How can my child borrow books?

Browse the Explore tab and Collections tab to borrow a book. Once you have found the item you want to borrow, you can read or listen to a sample first. Click 'Borrow' to borrow the item and it will open straight away.

If the book is not available, you can click 'Add to list' and add the book to a wish list. You can also put it on hold by clicking 'Place Hold'.

To close the book, click the 'Close' button on the top left of the book.

How can my child see their books?

Click on the Shelf tab to see the books borrowed.



How can my child renew or return their book?

Books are automatically returned on their due date. If your child wishes to renew or return the book, click on the Shelf tab, then the Options for the books. From here the book can be returned or renewed. Here it also shows when the book is due to be returned.

What types of items are on Sora?

There are a variety of items on Sora including books (Ebooks), audiobooks, graphic novels, magazines and Read-along books.

How can my child filter to see either Ebooks or audiobooks?

The collections are set to show both EBooks and Audiobooks, but can be filtered to show either type.

When you select Explore, different Collections show up. Once you have selected a Collection, you can filter these by using the Filter option on the right. Choose the Format option and choose Ebooks or audiobooks.

What are read-along books?

There are some Ebooks that are also Read-along books. This means that the text is highlighted as the narrator reads it aloud. To find these, click the Explore tab and then search for 'Read-along books' in the search bar.

Are books always available?

As this collection is digital content, Hampshire School Library Service staff will be monitoring the collection and will be able to purchase additional copies of popular items if needed. This means children may sometimes experience wait times on popular titles or new releases. If an item your child wants is not available, they can add it to their wish list or put it on hold. By putting it on hold, they will be notified when it becomes available. Some titles in the collection are classed as 'Always Available'. This means that an unlimited number of users can borrow the same title at the same time.

Does my device need to be online for my child to read?

When you borrow an item, it should automatically download if you are connected to the internet. You can see if books have been downloaded by going to the Shelf tab and the tick next to the book. It will have a green tick and say 'Downloaded' when it has been successful.



If you would rather stream the book when online, click the green tick and choose the 'Stream (when online)' option. You can change the download settings by clicking the three lines on the top right in the Home tab and going to Settings.

How can my child change the appearance of the borrowed book?

When you open a borrowed book you can also change the appearance by clicking on the page. A menu will appear on the top right. Clicking on the large 'A' lets you change the appearance; for example, changing the size of the text, the colour of the background, the font, the line spacing and the weight of the text. This means it can be adjusted to be the best for your child.



How can my child make the font of the screen dyslexia friendly?

On the top right hand side of the screen are three lines. Click this and choose the Dyslexia font. This means every book and part of the app/ website will be shown in a dyslexia friendly font.

Can reading my child does using items from Sora count towards their Space Race homework?

Absolutely! Sora has a varied collection which will allow your child to read widely and expand their interests. We would encourage them to use this resource as well as the library in school.

For help using the App, use the link below:

<https://help.soraapp.com/en-us/home.htm>