



HOME LEARNING POLICY

Home learning will be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher.

This policy has been developed to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school and give clear guidance about the work our pupils are expected to complete outside of lessons.

Home learning enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such, is an integral part of the curriculum. Research suggests that pupils' achievement is improved with parental involvement as long as the parents do not do too much resulting in the work no longer being the child's.

Home learning is "part and parcel of a good education – along with high quality teaching and strong discipline" spokesman for the Department for Education 2012

Aims of Home learning

- To encourage children to develop independent learning skills
- To instil the importance of life-long learning
- To encourage responsibility, ownership and self-confidence
- To develop self-study skills such as planning, time management and self-discipline
- To further raise standards of attainment for each child
- To further develop research skills
- To access and make use of resources available outside of the classroom
- To give the opportunity to practise and extend skills whilst giving an opportunity to develop own areas of interest
- Provide opportunities for parents to work in partnership with their child; supporting, encouraging and celebrating their learning
- To provide feedback in relation to learning in class

Principles

- ✓ Pupils must take responsibility for their home learning and should be supported by their parents.
- ✓ Home learning should be issued in appropriate quantities and with completion dates.
- ✓ Tasks should be both clear and reasonable, giving children plenty of opportunities to succeed.
- ✓ Home learning should be carefully planned in order to support, extend or consolidate class work.
- ✓ It should not be seen as an "add-on" or a dispensable extra.
- ✓ Home learning should match the needs and abilities of pupils.
- ✓ Home learning is related to current work where possible and is stimulating and challenging.
- ✓ Pupils should be adequately prepared for the completion of tasks set i.e. they are not to complete Home learning where the topic has not been covered in class.
- ✓ Be varied and not involve purely written assignments

Home Learning Tasks

All children will be expected to do home learning each week during term time.

Home learning can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. The amount of time a pupil is expected to take on completion of their home learning will vary due to the task.

It is expected that children will practise the following at least three times a week

Reading As children become more fluent readers they should also be reading independently.

Maths key skills eg. times tables, counting

Spelling

The following are guidelines for the time to be spent on longer Home learning tasks over the course of one week:

Y3/4 40 - 60 minutes

Y5/6 1-1.5 hours

These tasks may take the form of research or project-based home learning that can be completed over several weeks.

Maths and English tasks will also be given and will be directly linked to the learning in class. Year 6 maths homework gives children the opportunity to practise all the skills they have learnt across the maths curriculum.

Giving children a longer period of time to complete homework allows parents and children to decide on an appropriate time to complete tasks which will fit in with other home commitments. We believe that taking responsibility for work and leisure time is an important life skill. The period of time allowed for some longer tasks may occasionally include a holiday period but there is no requirement for children to do home learning tasks during holidays.

The giving of homework shall remain flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of the individual and the demands of the curriculum. Children will be provided with homework set at the appropriate level of challenge for them. Children with Special Educational Needs will be set homework appropriate for their needs. Close co-operation regarding appropriate tasks will exist between class teachers and special needs support staff.

Children are also encouraged to complete on-line learning using programmes such as MyMaths and Bug Club.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To issue guidance regarding spellings, multiplication tables and regular reading and counting practice
- To ensure home learning is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught
- To ensure that pupils have received adequate teaching to enable them to complete the home learning task
- To ensure that pupils have a clear explanation of the Home learning task written in their home-link book
- To ensure that Home learning is set consistently across the cohort
- To ensure that the Home learning task is related to the children's ability
- To give pupils feedback for each home learning task completed

Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

- To monitor and evaluate the policy
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate
- Inform new parents to the school of the policy

Role of the Pupils

- To be responsible for taking Home learning home to do and return Home learning to school completed on time
- To present their work to a suitably high standard that reflects the standard of class work
To explain, present or feedback on their Home learning assignments as required
- To consult their teacher if the task is not fully understood, in order to clarify any lack of understanding promptly, before work is due in

Role of Parents

- To provide a suitable place in which their child can complete their home learning
- To support their child with their work, which should be completed by the child
- To make it clear to their child that they value home learning and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning
- To become actively involved and support their child with home learning activities
- To encourage their child to present work to a suitably high standard
- To praise their child when they have completed their home learning
- To comment on home learning activities in the Home-link book.
- To encourage their child to hand in home learning on time.
- Speak to their child's teacher if, for any reason, home circumstances do not allow home learning to be completed on time or in full.

If Home Learning is not completed, appropriate action will be taken by the class teacher. Initially a note will be written in the Home-link book informing the parent that homework hasn't been completed. On the third occasion, the class teacher must discuss this directly with the parent. (All parents and pupils agree to this when signing the Home-School Agreement).

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other school policies, in particular Marking and Teaching and Learning.

Monitoring and evaluating the success of the policy

The policy will be monitored and evaluated by:

- Leadership Team
- Governors Curriculum Committee

The policy and procedures may be revised in light of these evaluations.

Date agreed by staff: 3.9.14

Reviewed July 2016