



HOME LEARNING POLICY

Introduction

Home learning is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with home learning.

Rationale for Home Learning

Home learning is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to home learning in the 1997 White Paper 'Excellence in Schools', in which home learning was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see home learning as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing home learning is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of home learning are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;

- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Reading

This is a very important life skill and the key to learning and finding out everything you want to do. We have invested time and money into Accelerated Reader and will be encouraging its usage right through key stage two, or when children become independent free readers. All children in key stage two will be encouraged to read for a sustained period every evening if possible. The aim will be a book a week so that the children can do a quiz a week. Sometimes books may be shorter so more than one book is possible! As soon as they finish them they will be encouraged to complete a quiz. This can happen before school, lunchtime and at homework club, as well as during class guided reading sessions. The sooner they complete it the better the score is likely to be, as the children need to be scoring 70%.

In Key Stage One, children need to read to adults at home every day so that they practise this skill. Please do record the pages in their reading record.

During reading sessions do ask children about the characters and their feelings, discuss new vocabulary and how the writer engages the reader.

Spellings

Children need to learn words set each week for the test that they will have on a weekly basis. How they do this can be a personal decision. They may choose to find mnemonics for those that they don't know, they may write them in different colours, they may speed write them etc. These are all strategies taught in school.

Maths

All children have plenty of access to Athletics and the use will be actively encouraged. We hope children will complete courses and take the tests each week so that they gain certificates. At least once a fortnight this will be the task, while the other activity will be a number based task so children gain a rapid recall of number facts.

Other Home Learning

Other home learning will consist of a choice sheet related to project or topic work and these activities will be undertaken over a period of time. During project term in the Summer, the sheets for the classes with choices on them will relate to the individual topic, but the other terms will

relate to the Key Stage project. In the past children have proudly brought in models, paintings and poems as part of them choosing what to do.

Homework Club

Home learning does not need to be a battle, Kathy Jones and Colin Whittaker are available before school from 8.00am so that the children can access the computers, or have support to complete tasks.

Kathy also runs an after school homework club on a daily basis from 3.30 – 4.30pm.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

Some of the most important educational software that we use in school can be accessed at home. This ensures that children are using age-appropriate software in their work at home. The school will supply parents or carers with details.

Holiday Activities

We are going to create more activities with the children to extend the National Trust list of '50 things to do before you're 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ' and then send this home so learning can be fun and active and optional! The children will create the list that includes activities local to us like Climb a Tor etc. during a learning forum!

This Policy was approved by the Curriculum Committee in Summer Term 2016.

The policy will be reviewed annually and monitored by the leadership team.