

Home Learning Policy

To enable every individual regardless of ability to achieve their full potential, to prepare for future life and to become life long learners, developing a thirst for learning and to become good citizens equipped for the challenges of the 21st century.

Our motto is - **It's fun to learn**

The values that underpin this vision can be set out under the following headings.

To Develop An Understanding Of Self

Each child should

- Develop an appreciation and awareness of self
- Become independent learners and thinkers
- Achieve their fullest potential regardless of their ability and gender
- Have high personal expectations of work and behaviour
- Have a positive attitude towards their own learning
- Show a healthy attitude to living an active life through sport and other recreational activities

To Develop An Understanding Of Relationships

Each child should

- Care for others and oneself
- Show mutual respect and tolerance for spiritual and cultural diversity
- Understand the importance of learning together and working together as a team

To Develop An Understanding Of Society

Each child should endeavour to become

- Good citizens
- Effective and constructive members of the community
- Able to appreciate and celebrate their own and others success
- Valuable members of the school community
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To Develop An Understanding Of The Environment

Each child should

- Take an active role in caring for the learning environment of the school
- Be safe and cared for in a stimulating learning environment
- Appreciate and respect the environment of the school

Through exposure to a wide range of teaching and learning experiences, pupils will achieve their full potential as independent, THINKING learners. Relevant, enjoyable and enriching activities will develop their thirst for life-long learning.

As a school our belief is that every child deserves to succeed regardless of his or her ability.

Research over a number of years has shown that Home Learning can make an important contribution to pupils' progress at school.

In any school, both teachers and parents need to be completely clear about what is expected of pupils in the way Home Learning is organised and managed.

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account
- Ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil
- Improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils
- Extend and support the learning via reinforcement and revision
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to learn in partnership
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to learn together to enjoy learning experiences
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- At Year 6, to prepare children for secondary transfer

The purpose of Home Learning

We aim to:

- Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Encourage the use of resources of all kinds at home
- Extend school learning, for example, through additional reading
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school

Therefore:

Home Learning is the work which is set outside the timetabled curriculum and is to be shared and supported by parents. It will contain an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher and it represents an extension of the learning opportunities provided in school.

Home Learning is considered in relation to the rest of teaching and learning. It is one of the teaching strategies available and it needs to reflect the objectives of the curriculum and designed in accordance with the needs of the pupils at the appropriate stages of their development. It is planned as one of a series of learning situations and organised to use time as effectively as possible.

In Key Stage 1 children are asked to carry out simple tasks or investigations which are appropriate to their classroom activities. Spellings and tables are also learnt at home.

At the beginning of Key Stage 2, children are introduced to Home Learning in a more formal way. In Year 3 pupils are required to undertake a limited amount of work at home. During the rest of the junior school phase, the children are expected to take on an increasing amount of Home Learning culminating in a weekly 2-3 hour commitment for our oldest pupils. The majority of tasks to be undertaken at home will concentrate on literacy, numeracy and independent study.

In addition to any other Home Learning that our pupils are asked to do, all children will be encouraged to undertake (daily) reading activities at home. With some children, particularly those in the younger age groups, this will mean the active involvement of parents/carers. The details of the approach to be used with guided reading will be decided in each year group and across the Key Stages and shared with parents throughout class letters and notes.

Each Year Group will inform parents of the timings and content of Home Learning. Parents will also be given guidance on what part they might have in Home Learning activities and each child will be issued with a Home Learning Journal, detailing tasks for each week on a half termly basis.

Suggested timings: (excluding reading/spelling activities)

Year 1	½ hour per week
Year 2	½ hour to 1 hour per week
Year 3	1 hour per week
Year 4	1 ½ hours per week
Year 5	2 hours per week
Year 6	3 ½ to 5 hours per week

Typical Levels Of Homework Throughout The School in Home Learning Journals.

EYFS Tin or envelope of sight words, sounds, number-bonds, etc to be learned and practiced
Occasional worksheets
Reading aloud daily
Rhymes to learn
(from the Spring term – Home Learning Book weekly activity)

Year One Reading to an adult daily
Spellings weekly - learned through the week when the child is ready
Poetry to learn
Number-bonds to learn
Occasional worksheets

Year Two **There may be slight variations to these activities in each Year Group**
Reading to an adult
Reading independently frequently
Spellings weekly - learned through the week
Number-bonds and tables to learn
Occasional worksheets
Poetry to learn
Comprehension exercises

Year Three As for Year Two and independent research

Year Four As for Year Three and independent research, topic related

Year Five As for Year Four
Own topic
Comprehension exercises
Maths sheets

Year Six As for Year Four
In the Spring term, Year 6 will focus on Maths, Literacy and Science for SAT's tests.

Helping Your Child At Home – (a note to parents)

There are many ways in which you can help your child at home. Here are just a few ideas: -

- Find a good time to complete the activities
- Find a quiet place to complete the activity without disruptions
- Avoid competing activities – children will find it very difficult to concentrate if the rest of the family are enjoying a fun activity together
- Support your child in their learning. Learning something new isn't easy and sometimes your child will make mistakes
- Help your child learn spellings and number facts by playing games – try to keep the atmosphere fun and light

Other ways in which you can help your child are: -

- Visiting places, the local library, museums and sites of historical significance
- Going for woodland walks, visiting coastal areas, rivers, lakes and mountains
- Visiting aquariums, farms and wildlife parks

'We believe that parents are partners in their child's education'.