

Home Learning Policy

Introduction

Home learning is anything that 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 to support children's learning. For example, families who spend time reading a story to their child before bedtime are helping with home learning or learning at home.

Rationale for Home learning

Home learning can be a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of families and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that home learning is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Home learning can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. 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 wide range of out-of-school clubs and community youth organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children.

We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop skills, interests and talents to the full only when families encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

It is recognised that home learning causes high anxiety amongst some of our students. In particular some of our Autistic Spectrum Disorder pupils struggle over blurring the boundaries of school and home. We ask teachers to liaise with families regarding the amount and effects of home learning for individual students. This can be discussed at any time, but formally at Parents' Evenings and Annual Review/ Person Centred Review meetings. Families are encouraged to contact the school if there are specific issues around home learning for their child.

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 a partnership between home and school in supporting every child's learning;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of Home Learning

Reading – we strongly encourage all pupils to read at least three times a week at home. Reading material includes books, newspapers, magazines and leaflets. Some pupils would benefit from reading out loud to an adult, whilst others are confident free readers. Parents are encouraged to note in their child's reading log/planner every time their child has read at home and to highlight any difficulties in reading.

Home learning challenges – each of the three phases set a range of challenges that support social learning, independence and life skills. Students are

encouraged to take complete two or more each term. The challenges are available in student's planners and on the school web site.

Learning to support academic subjects – subject staff regularly set homework to enhance, embed and support learning. In English, weekly spellings are set as well as the expectation of reading at home. In Maths, homework is set once a week to support learning that has taken place in school.

We aim for the selection of tasks set to be interactive and engaging in order to support families in encouraging their child to complete the tasks at home. Pupils will be encouraged to use their independent learning skills when selecting which tasks to complete.

Pupils can record their home learning in a variety of different ways. Those pupils who are completing their home learning activities will be rewarded and celebrated in line with the school rewards policy.

The Role of Families

Families have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask families to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are available to them. We invite them to help their child as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Families can support their child by providing a good working space at home, and by providing support for tasks where pupils need it.

If families have any problems or questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school home learning policy or the way it is implemented; parents should contact the Headteacher in the first instance and then, if they wish, make a complaint through the use of the school's complaints procedures.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our Governing body to agree and then monitor the school home learning policy. This is done by the committee of the Governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents/carers complete a questionnaire at parent view, and our Governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent/carers. Our Governing body may, at any time, request from our Headteacher a report on the way home learning is organised in our school.

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