



Southfields Community Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Rationale

At Southfields Community Primary School we believe that home learning is an essential part of pupils' learning. In line with National Curriculum requirements, home learning is set and children are encouraged to, and expected to, establish good home learning habits from the beginning of their school life.

- Home learning is set regularly to practise, retrieve and rehearse basic skills e.g. times tables, spelling and reading
- Home learning meets the needs of individual pupils
- Home learning should be understood by pupils and parents and not be seen as an onerous task
- Home learning should help, develop and build independence
- Home learning should be based on work that has been covered in that week or previously in the school year

Definition

Home learning is defined as work set by the teacher to be done at home, either by the child alone or with the support of an older sibling, parent or carer. The main focus of home learning will be Maths and English, with tasks to extend and enhance learning across the curriculum.

Home learning will involve some or all of the following activities:

Reading: independent, shared or paired reading, with possible activities to reinforce comprehension and understanding of texts as children progress through school.

Spellings and vocabulary extension: learning sounds and spellings; activities to apply spelling rules and patterns to extended tasks.

Research into an aspect of the curriculum as preparation for, extension to, consolidation of or follow up to work carried out in class.

Learning number facts and practice of calculation, including problem solving (multiplication tables, number bonds, etc..).

The nature, type and amount of home learning will vary according to the age and ability of the pupil and will:

- raise standards in all curriculum areas but particularly basic skills in Maths and English
- create a sound partnership between parents and teachers with regard to children's learning
- consolidate/reinforce pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding of work covered in class
- improve pupils' attitudes to learning and independent learning skill

Entitlement

All children are entitled to have home learning set by their teacher which is matched to their ability and needs. Parents are entitled to share in the learning of their child

Home learning will comprise of work set using a mix of paper-based and online learning

Teachers

In setting and marking home learning, teachers will:

- give reasonable time for its completion (including time to complete tasks if home learning is not returned)
- match tasks to time and as far as possible to the abilities of the children
- ensure home learning is marked
- how/when home learning should be completed, including web links, etc. (see Appendices)
- completed and collected in individual pupil folders – class folders used in reception along with the Tapestry online platform

Frequency Set

Homework will be set on a Friday and will be due in the following Friday (Reception in on a Thursday)

Parents

At Southfields Community Primary School, we recognise the importance of developing a sound partnership between parents and children with reference to children's learning.

Parents will:

- be provided with additional guidance to support learning at home and to help children with home learning tasks;
- be encouraged to support the school's home learning policy when signing the home school agreement;
- be given feedback on how children are doing throughout the school year.

Monitoring

The Headteacher, alongside the senior leadership team, (SLT) will regularly review the Policy and Guidelines on behalf of the Governing Body, alongside the whole staff team, and will monitor the quality of home learning provision through planning and work scrutiny.

Appendix 1 – Guidance for parents/carers

Home learning – Guidance for Parents

At Southfields Community Primary School we appreciate how important and valuable good home/school links are and the need for us all to work together to ensure a good education for all children.

Home learning is an important part of the curriculum for pupils, and in line with National Curriculum guidance we provide regular home learning for pupils in all year groups.

We aim to vary the approach to home learning according to the age and learning needs of the child and we cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of parents working with their child to ensure home learning is completed.

How can parents help?

There are many ways you can help:

- Ask the children questions about what they are learning at school (talking helps everyone understand things clearly).
- Play word and number games to consolidate early learning of letter sounds, common vocabulary and number bonds.
- Spend a little time, on a regular basis, listening to your child read and discussing the books they have brought home. Encourage your child to read words and books regularly (show them how important words are).
- Help them to form letters the way they are taught at school starting at the correct point.
- Test what has to be learned e.g. spellings, tables, number facts etc.
- Read what your child has written, and talk to them about their writing: Does it make sense? Is it correctly punctuated, etc.? Is writing neat and accurate? Have they used exciting words?
- Encourage your child to check over his/her work.
- Help your child find out additional facts, e.g. by visiting the library or researching on the Internet.
- We ask for your support in seeing that home learning is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. If home learning is not completed children are often at a disadvantage in class, as many home learning tasks are discussed in class and often inform future learning.

Teachers will ask children to complete home learning in school if it is not handed. If home learning is unable to be facilitated at home, the school will provide opportunities for children to complete work during the school week.

Time set aside for home learning should be respected by the rest of the family. Try to make sure it becomes part of your child's daily routine.

Encourage your child to establish a home learning routine which best suits them, e.g. not when they are becoming tired, etc.

For younger children little and often is best – 10-15 minutes daily is a good habit. As children become older they should be encouraged to sustain their concentration for longer periods of time, and to work with increasing independence. For example, it would be beneficial to get children into the habit of reading every evening; time spent on reading should range from approximately 10 minutes in Key Stage 1 and up to 30 minutes in Key Stage 2. We appreciate this isn't always possible every day but a minimum of 3-4 times a week should be encouraged.

If a child struggles with an activity, try to avoid becoming anxious about it and approach your child's teacher as soon as you can. They will spend more time explaining the task to help you and your child.

What sort of home learning should I expect for my child?

Reception

Reading – When children are ready, they will bring their reading books home daily along with reading record books so that you can share comments on progress and enjoyment with school staff

Tapestry – work set on the online platform

Y1

Reading

Spellings

Maths worksheets and activities

Tasks related to topic work

Y2

Reading

Spellings

English or Maths tasks, including times tables work

Tasks related to topic work

Key Stage 2

Home learning will include:

Reading – Children have a reading journal to record their comments about their books

An English Task – spellings, comprehension activity, research

A Maths task – tables to learn, maths activities to undertake, problems, etc.

Additional topic-based tasks or projects, to enhance topic work done in class

As children progress towards Year 6 they may often be given additional activities, and this will also include SATs revision. It is expected that parents encourage greater independence as children move into upper Key Stage 2.