

**Policy for Home Learning
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Document History

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Review and Responsibilities

Date of Review:	
Member of Staff Responsible:	
Governor(s)/Committee(s) Responsible:	
The policy is available in alternative formats from:	The school office
Alternative formats available:	e-mail enlarged print audio tape

POLICY FOR HOME LEARNING

'Through Faith, Love and Inspiration, We Learn, Grow and Succeed.'

(This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents: NC Programmes of Study, QCA Schemes of Work, Governors' Curriculum Statement, school policies on: equal opportunities, teaching & learning, assessment & feedback, monitoring & evaluation, health & safety, staff induction, continuing professional development, gifted, able & talented children, inclusion & special educational needs.)

Christian Distinctiveness

This policy should be implemented within the context of Polehampton Church of England Junior School's vision, instrument of government, aims and values as a Church of England school. We aim to provide a Christian environment which will help pupils to reflect upon their own experiences and those of others, discovering meaning and value in such experiences which might reveal the love and presence of God.

Introduction

At Polehampton C of E Junior School, we believe that learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practise at home the tasks done in class, and helps them work towards improving important skills. It also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and, later, in adult life. Homework activities are an important part of the home/school partnership. In supporting a child's homework, parents and carers are supporting their learning as well as raising their achievement and self esteem through the interest they take in their work.

All children are expected to take part in a variety of tasks at home to enhance and support their work in class.

The Purposes of Home Learning

- Develop an effective partnership between the school and home;
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences Exploit resources for learning 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 prepare them for the requirements of secondary school;

Staff undertake to support this policy by:

- Providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class. These will vary in their nature, and will not necessarily be of a formal pencil and paper style.
- Ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability;
- Communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied, and their child's individual targets;
- Providing access to the ICT suite for children who don't have a computer at home.

In order to allow for the child's other activities, home learning tasks are given out on a weekly basis. Class teachers will let parents know the specific arrangements in the termly Year Group Newsletter.

Pupils are expected to:

- Make full use of all the opportunities they are presented with;
- Tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude;
- Take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected;
- Be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school;
- Take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

The Role of the Parent/Carer

A gradually extending programme of work which children are expected to complete out of school emphasizes the principle that learning takes place everywhere. Parental support is crucial to ensure the successful progress of every child

Parents and carers should:

- Provide a suitable, quiet place without distractions;
- Provide access to paper, pencils and colouring pens at home as well as a dictionary/thesaurus appropriate to the child's age and ability;
- Support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning;
- Join the public library and visit regularly;
- Take an interest in their child's homework, give encouragement and support where necessary;
- Ensure that the homework is completed on time and returned to school on the correct day;
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed.

Feedback

It is important that feedback is given to pupils as quickly as possible. This is given in a number of ways:

- Immediately by parents or carers;
- Discussion in class where work done at home is a part of the class work;
- Through tests such as tables or spellings;
- Individual comment from teacher on written assignments;
- Pupils reviewing the work done in small groups;
- Presentation of homework in class and school assemblies.

Teachers are interested to know how children carried out activities, whether they were too hard/ too easy/ interesting, etc. The homework book or reading record book are ideal places for parents, carers and teachers to record any comments. Parents may also comment on whether the time allocation was appropriate or whether the activity was too short/too long. As with all school activity, parents are invited to discuss any queries with their child's class teacher.

Some homework tasks will be marked by the class teaching assistant.

Guidelines

There are established guidelines for home learning at Polehampton C of E Junior School. These are just guidelines and the amount of work may vary on different weeks or terms, depending on the topics and units of work being undertaken at school at that time.

There is progression in terms of the quantity of work set in order that by the end of Year 6, good practice is in place in preparation for transfer to secondary school.

The DCSF suggested time allocation for homework is:

Years 3 and 4 1.5 hours per week Years 5 and 6 30 minutes per day

Year 3

- The children are expected to read daily. The book is to be kept in a reading folder with a reading diary. This is to be completed by the pupil and/or parent while the book is being read and when it is finished.
- A set of weekly spellings to learn using Look, Cover, Write, Check. The children will be required to write a sentence for each word.
- One piece of maths homework usually linked to the main maths objective of the week or a reinforcement activity.
- In the Spring Term the children will research and present their own personal project.
- Other occasional holiday homework.

Year 4

- The children are expected to read daily. The book is to be kept in a reading folder with a reading diary. This is to be completed by the pupil and/or parent while the book is being read and when it is finished.
- A set of weekly spellings to learn using Look, Cover, Write, Check. The children will be required to either write sentences or a short passage based on the spellings of the week.
- One piece of maths homework usually linked to the main maths objective of the week or a reinforcement activity.
- Occasional research based on topic work.
- Other occasional holiday homework.

Year 5

- The children are expected to read daily. The book is to be kept in a reading folder with a reading diary. This is to be completed by the pupil and/or parent while the book is being read and when it is finished.
- A set of weekly spellings to learn and/or a piece of English homework. The children will be required to either write sentences or a short passage based on the spellings of the week.
- One piece of maths homework usually linked to the main maths objective of the week.
- Science occasionally as part of an investigation or project.
- Finishing work from any curriculum area.
- Other occasional holiday homework.

Year 6

- The children are expected to read daily.
- A set of relevant weekly spellings to learn or vocabulary development and/or a piece of English homework.
- One piece of maths homework usually linked to maths objective of the week.
- Science occasionally as part of an investigation or project.
- Frequent research based on topic work/school journey.
- Finishing off of any curriculum area.
- In the Spring Term the children will work through a study guide for maths, English and science in preparation for the SATs.
- Other occasional holiday homework.

Absence from School

If a parent feels that particular circumstances (e.g. prolonged absence from school) warrant additional work at home, this should be discussed with the class teacher. If the class teacher feels that additional work would be appropriate, adequate time will be allowed for work to be set and materials to be gathered.

Additional homework will not be set simply because a child is being taken out of school for a family holiday.

Homework not completed

This will be treated in the same way as a piece of classwork not completed e.g. time given during playtime, or sent home again.

Special Educational Needs

Although it is seen as important that children identified as having special educational needs do as much in common with other children as possible there will be occasions when they may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class.

The More Able Child

It is acknowledged that the able child needs to be given homework that will use their full ability and their homework may differ from that set for the majority of the class.

Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

Monitoring is carried out in the following ways:

- Teachers discussing in their year groups
- Informal discussion with staff and pupils
- Discussion at staff meetings
- Feedback from parents at Parents' Evenings and through our annual questionnaire
- Sampling by Deputy Head
- Visits by the governors on Governor Days.

The policy is reviewed every three years, or more frequently as necessary.