

Community Primary School Hampshire



Home Learning Policy

Adopted on:	Feb 24
Signed on behalf of the Governing Body	Mrs B Read Chair
Review Date	Feb 26

Rationale for home-learning

Completing learning at home is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. 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.

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents 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.

Home-learning plays 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 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 their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of 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 a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of home-learning

The government no longer sets guidelines as to how much homework should be set. We set a variety of age appropriate home-learning activities which focus on reading and learning number facts. The school has purchased subscriptions to TT Rock Stars, Numbots and Sora and provide children with access information so that these can be used at home by parents to support their children.

Early Years and Key Stage 1

Reading

In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books, which match the phonics scheme we follow at school, to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the

maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. Children may be sent words home that they might need extra practise with. Parents are asked to spend a short period of time reading with their child each day.

Number Facts

We ask that children take time to practice their number fact knowledge for a short period of time each day. This will focus on number bonds and times table knowledge, with pupils having log in details of websites they can use to practise these. Information about the number fact knowledge that is taught in each year group is shared with parents through school diaries alongside suggestions of how to have fun with numbers at home.

Key Stage 2

Reading

At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of home-learning activities outlined above specifically with a larger focus on reading for understanding and also expect them to do more of these tasks independently. Children in KS2 should be further encouraged to read their current reading books as set by the class teacher as well as read a wider range of books from the class library or the school library (or indeed other books they may have been bought at home).

Times tables

As part of their mathematical development, it is vital that all children become fluent in their times table facts at KS2. The only way for children to master their facts is through regular practice, repetition and making it fun. Each week, children will need to learn and review their times tables. As for Key Stage 1 information about the number fact knowledge that is taught in each year group is shared with parents through school diaries alongside suggestions of how to have fun with numbers at home.

Other Home-learning Including Online

Increasingly, the school subscribes to online services to support our pupils' learning at home which require pupils to have access to the internet. Specifically for maths and for English, teachers may send home login information or post links onto their class page which pupils should be encouraged to interact with as home-learning. The school will also provide opportunities for those children without access to the internet at home, to carry out these home-learning tasks whilst at school.

Occasionally, children are asked to talk about a topic at home while studying it in school and are sometimes encouraged to make something linked to their topic. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local library and the Internet (under supervision).

Revision

For Year 6, we may send home revision packs to be completed by children at home in the lead up to national tests, in order for children to practise key skills. Teachers will communicate more information about this and parents may be invited in to discuss this in more detail.

Amount of home-learning

The amount of home-learning that children will be expected to do will increase as they get older. What we want to achieve is for children to spend a short period of time every day practising number facts and reading and enjoy a book. This frequency will significantly contribute to children developing good fluency levels.

Pupils with special educational needs

We set home-learning for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. However, we recognise that many of these children will need the support of their parents at home with the work set.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home-learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the home-learning tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents 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.

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 governing body Curriculum Portfolio.