

John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Home Learning Policy

1 Document purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to provide a consistent Home learning Policy for St John's Highbury Vale School.

2 Audience

- 2.1 This document is intended for all teaching staff, school governors, inspection teams and the Local Authority Adviser/Inspector. Copies are provided for parents on request and are made available by the School Office or website.

3 What is Home Learning?

- 3.1 It is work the child is asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents and carers.

4 Aims

- To help the child make good progress with work in school.
- Encourage family learning and thereby promote children's positive attitude to learning.
- Help parents/carers to be involved in their child's learning, promote enjoyable learning experiences and help parents, carers and children understand what their child/ren are learning.
- Give an opportunity for the child to talk one to one with another adult, parent or carer about what they are learning.
- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents/carers to pursue the aims of the school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- Exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, available in the home.
- Extend school learning by additional reading, learning number facts etc.
- To develop, in older pupils, the confidence and self-discipline to study on their own and prepare them for secondary school.

5 School organisation

- 5.1
- There is an expectation that all children will undertake regular Home learning and that the family will support this. Allowance will be made, as appropriate, for the background of the child and known family circumstances.
 - The frequency and scope of Home learning expectations varies according to the age and ability of the child.
 - Reading is sent home regularly and the work recorded in a reading 'diary', which may be commented on by parents/carers, teachers or classroom assistants as appropriate.
 - The school issues all children from Year 1 to Year 6 with Home learning Books. Each week there will be a series of tasks (I can do...Statements) set which encourages and allows the children to respond in a variety of creative ways. (I can do...Statements) will include some number skills and language and literacy activities. There may also be tasks set linked to the topic or theme the children are studying in class at the time.
 - Home Learning encourages each child to be as creative as they wish and there is no set format for how the work should be presented. Indeed a flexible approach allows each child to be creative and respond in a manner that best suits their preferred learning style. For example, a child could record themselves on a CDR or make something as ways to present their home learning. Children are often offered a structure and suggestions in order to support their home learning, particularly for those who have difficulty with writing or have a poor working memory.
 - Children with SEN are often given separate home learning which enables them to work on their specific targets.
 - Class teachers go through the Home learning each week so that children are clear about what is expected of them.
 - We hope that the creative approach to Home learning may also encourage parents and other adult family members to become involved in their child's Home learning.

6 Basic organisation

- 6.1
- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Reception | - | New words and sounds
Numeracy activities/worksheets and
literacy reading bag. |
| Yr 1/2 | - | I Can Do.... tasks including
reading activities
Spellings
Times tables
Literacy activities |
| Yr 3/4/5/6 | - | I Can Do.... tasks including
Reading
Spellings |

Time tables
Research etc.

6.2 All pupils will keep their work in the Home learning Book.

6.3 **Daily reading practice** is seen as essential and is additional to home learning. Parents are encouraged to listen to their child read and read with their child, in a supportive manner and in an appropriate setting that promotes enjoyment of reading. The school will periodically provide advice to parents and carers about how they can best support their child's reading.

6.4 We recommend the following time allocations for reading:
Years 1 + 2 = 10 minutes each day
Years 3 + 4 = 20 minutes each day
Years 5 + 6 = 30 minutes each day

7 Environment for home learning

7.1 Parents and carers will be encouraged to:

- Provide a suitable, reasonably peaceful, place in which their child can do their Home learning. For younger children it is beneficial if it is done with an adult.
- Make the value of home learning clear to the child.
- Always encourage and praise the child's effort and work.

School may provide an opportunity for Home learning to be done by providing a Home learning Club with adult support and additional materials.

8 Time allocation

8.1 Children will invest as much or as little time into their Home learning as they and their family decide. Home learning is not compulsory and there is no legal requirement. However, schoolwork done at home does contribute to children's learning and educational progress and helps to establish the self-discipline and commitment required at secondary school and beyond.

8.2 **Guidelines for home learning** (in addition to reading):

Years 1 + 2 = 20 minutes a week approx.
3 + 4 = 30 minutes a week approx.
5 + 6* = 45 minutes a week approx.

- Some children and families may decide to allocate some weekend time to home learning.
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*Year 6 may have additional revision in order to prepare for tests and for secondary school when they may have significantly more home learning.

9 **Resources**

- 9.1
- Home learning books (new one provided each year or when a book is completed) and Reading Records.
 - Parents are asked to contribute towards the cost of lost or damaged reading books, which have been sent home with their child.

10 **Recording**

- 10.1
- Staff record the frequency and standard of Home learning returned and reward and praise those children who demonstrate a strong commitment to Home learning.
- Children are asked to comment on (I can do...Statements).
 - Parents are asked to add comments.

These comments help the school to evaluate the success of the Home learning Books.

11 **MONITORING**

- 11.1
- The SLT will collect a sample of Home learning books and a selection of books are retained each term for evaluation and evidence of the school's Home learning policy.
- 11.2
- We believe that the key statements below help to focus our philosophy:
- 11.3
- Key Statements:
- Home learning is set either to consolidate or extend the coverage of the lesson or series of lessons.
 - Home learning, which has been set, may be followed up in subsequent lessons.
 - The teacher will explain what learning objective the pupils will achieve from Home learning.
 - Home learning will have a clear focus and time guidance.
 - There will be plenty of opportunities for each child to succeed.
 - The Home learning will help develop social as well as other skills where appropriate.
 - Home learning assignments will be varied.
 - Home learning will be manageable for teachers.

12 Marking

- 12.1 Home learning will be marked in a less formal way than work completed in school and will include a short written comment where appropriate. Children's work is shared where appropriate in order to highlight examples of excellent effort and creativity.

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