



Home Learning Policy

Fordham All Saints

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1 Introduction

Home learning is anything 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/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are home learning.

2 Rationale for Home Learning

Home learning is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We encourage parents to be involved with learning at home and welcome parents supporting their children with the tasks and challenges they have been set. We also recognise that, at times, home learning also gives children the opportunity to engage in independent learning.

Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 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 cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning and encouraging parents to be fully involved in home learning tasks with their children;
- to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored at home;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice core skills and show creativity in their fortnightly home learning activities;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of home learning- Staff and pupils regard home learning as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. Most home learning will be completed in the children's red home learning books.

All Classes- Home Learning Challenges

Every class will be set a fortnightly home learning challenge. This will be an open ended task for the children to complete in any way they wish using their red home learning books. They may add flaps to their double sided page, use video or photography, art, written work, typed or hand written. This will be an opportunity to show off their creativity. Some ideas for how they may wish to present their work can be found at: www.learninglogs.co.uk

Additional Core Skills Learning

In Foundation Stage children will be set phonic related tasks weekly based on the phonics teaching in the classroom or a weekly maths related task. We ask that parents listen to their children read at least three times a week and fill in the home school planner. We also believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers. We also recommend counting with your children both forwards and backwards, initially to ten and then beyond.

In Key Stage 1 we ask parents to support their child through home learning. This includes reading daily for about fifteen minutes and filling in the home school planner. (Remember this can include sharing books and you reading to your child.) In addition, children will be given phonics and maths based learning, often through their home learning challenge format. The children's weekly Big Maths quiz will be brought home on a Tuesday for parents to talk through and go through using the prompt sheets on the Learning Zone through the school website. Topic research may be set but not more than once a half term.

Practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money and familiarising children with measures are of great value. Sometimes, home learning is for children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet. We encourage parents to spend free time with their children on enjoyable sharing activities, for example cooking, painting and dressing up.

In Key Stage 2, we continue to give children the sort of home learning activities outlined for Key Stage 1, including the reading activities specified above but often children will read more independently and complete their home school planner books independently for books they have read. The children's weekly Big Maths quiz will be brought home on a Tuesday for parents to talk through and go through using the prompt sheets on the Learning Zone through the school website. Children may have additional Maths or English based learning in addition to their home learning challenge. This will include Bug Club comprehension tasks and Abacus Maths games, Mathletics and Purple Mash etc. There may also be home learning related to Topic or Science at least half termly. We also set home learning as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Home learning is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning. Home learning completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the activities, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

5 Amount of home learning

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of home learning that we give the children. We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week on home activities, and this may well include reading with a parent. We encourage children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately one and a half hours on homework type activities per week, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately two hours a week. The amount of effort that goes into home learning challenges should reflect this.

6 The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage and work with their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set and enjoy learning together. We ask that parents provide their children with the sort of environment that allows them to do their very best.

We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record in the Home School Planner to show that they have heard their child read or to acknowledge that their child has read independently.

If parents and carers have any questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school home learning policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the Headteacher.

8 Use of ICT and Class Dojo

We will be using the class dojo app to also let parents know what their children are learning in the classroom, in addition to the termly overview that will be sent out at the start of the term. We please ask that parents consider the IT Code of Conduct when children are working at home using technology. The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. We will also add recommended websites via our blogs such as: Oxford Owl for e-books and Phonics Play for phonics games at home.

We discourage children from bringing memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is e-mailed to the teacher at school.

9 Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our homework policy is reviewed annually by the school leadership team and in consultation with teaching staff.