

Sparsholt C of E Primary School

Home Learning Policy



Introduction

As I am sure you are aware, home learning is an essential part of a child's education which allows them time to practice and consolidate what they have been learning in school. Whilst it is important, we would like to make it clear that home learning should not be something that causes stress to a child or a parent or takes a vast amount of time to complete. It should be an enjoyable experience that enables a child to share what they have been learning and gain more confidence in that area.

Principle

Sparsholt C of E Primary School values home learning and the opportunities home learning can bring to consolidate learning, deepen understanding or prepare pupils for the next stage of their education. We are committed to providing home learning which is age and stage appropriate, providing opportunities for pupils to work independently and alongside parents.

Home Learning – a definition

Home learning is defined as any learning or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers. At Sparsholt C of E Primary School we see learning at home as a valuable extension of the school day.

Aims of this policy:

- To ensure a consistent approach to home learning throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for home learning.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to home learning.

The purpose of Home Learning

The school regards the purpose of home learning as being able to:

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics.
- encourage pupils and their parents/carers to share and enjoy learning experiences
- 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 to prepare them for the requirements of the next stage of their education.

At Sparsholt C of E Primary School, teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the

afternoon. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out of-school activities, e.g. swimming, ballet, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc.

Home learning should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school.

Current Practice

The school believes that a regular pattern is important and will endeavour to establish a familiar routine. At the beginning of the academic year, each class / year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to home learning.

Parents will also be issued with a 'Home learning project jigsaw' (curriculum overview sheet) each term to inform them about the main contexts for learning and suggestions for follow up home learning challenges that link in with the topics being studied.

Expectations:

Foundation Stage

Parents/carers are encouraged to share reading books with their children at home. Reception parents/carers are encouraged to spend 10 minutes each evening with their child reading books and practising phonics. Children will be encouraged to complete one of the home learning challenges listed on the Home learning project jigsaws.

Years 1 and 2

Parents/carers are asked to hear children read for 10 minutes each evening or for longer if children wish to do so. When children begin to learn spellings, tables and number bonds we may ask parents to help them to practise these at home. Teachers may also ask children to find something out or gather information linked to the class topic, as appropriate. Children will be encouraged to complete one of the home learning challenges listed on the Home learning project jigsaws.

Years 3 and 4

Parents/carers are asked to encourage children to read for 10 to 20 minutes each evening, to help children with spellings, recall of multiplication and division facts and help them complete English and Maths based homework tasks. Teachers may also ask children to find something out or gather information linked to the class topic, as appropriate. Children will be encouraged to complete one of the home learning challenges listed on the Home learning project jigsaws.

Years 5 and 6

Parents/carers are asked to encourage children to read for up to 20 to 30 minutes each evening and to help children with spellings, recall of multiplication and division facts and

help them complete English and Maths based homework tasks. Teachers may also ask children to find something out or gather information linked to the class topic, as appropriate. Children will be encouraged to complete one of the home learning challenges listed on the Home learning project jigsaws.

Other home learning activities may include:

- Puzzles/games
- Learning songs or scripts for plays
- Physical activities
- Dressing up challenges

Home/School Communication and Support

Parents are welcome to provide feedback on reading by writing in the Reading Diary (Early Years and KS1) and Home/School Diary (Maple) or writing a comment in the Home Learning Book. If parents have any questions or concerns about home learning, they should contact their child’s teacher. The school organises training where appropriate for parents focused on supporting learning at home e.g. Maths Workshops or one to one meetings.

Progression in Home Learning

This is in addition to daily reading.

Reception	Short time daily	Reading/phonics and project related tasks
Year 1 & 2	10 minutes per day	Learning high frequency words/phonics, additional spellings as required in the National Curriculum and project related tasks.
Year 3 & 4	15 minutes per day	English, mathematics and project related tasks including spellings and time tables and related division facts.
Year 5 & 6	20-30 minutes per day	English, mathematics, home learning challenges and project related tasks, spellings and times tables and related division facts.

Timings are a guideline and may vary.

The role of the Governors, School, teachers, parents/carers in supporting pupils

Role of the Governors

- monitor the effectiveness of the home learning policy each year
- discuss how far the policy is being successfully implemented

Role of the School

- meet and talk with parents/carers when appropriate
- inform new parents/carers to the school so that they are aware of the policy
- offering workshops to parents/carers on how they can support their child

Role of the Class Teacher

- plan home learning as an integral part of curriculum planning
- provide an explanation of home learning tasks to parents/carers
- set up regular home learning in an easily followed routine
- match home learning, as far as possible, to the ability of the children
- provide feedback which encourages pupils to regularly complete tasks
- acknowledge and praise children for regularly completing their home learning tasks
- mark home learning when necessary, adhering to our marking policy, and give feedback to pupils
- marking of the task within an acceptable timeframe
- ensure any home learning is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught

Role of Parents/Carers

We would like parents/carers to:

- try and hear their child read every day, read to them or encourage them to read independently
- try and get involved and above all talk to their children about their learning and listen to what they tell them
- use the information sent home in the curriculum overview sheet to explore their learning and try to take them to places such as museums and libraries
- if parents/carers have access to the Internet, use websites to help their child explore the subjects they are learning at school
- during school holidays, continue to hear their children read and revise their times tables
- make it clear that they value learning and they support the school

Role of Child

(As agreed by the Pupil Governors – Nov 2019)

- It is our responsibility to complete the home learning

- We should hand it in on time
- Check we understand our home learning so that we can ask for help from our teacher if we need it
- Try our hardest with our home learning
- If we need help with our home learning, ask our helper to write a note on it for our teacher or talk to the teacher ourselves.

Your HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT and PRAISE is the key to success. We ask you to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their home learning. Please support children in completing tasks and return work in a tidy presentable state.

Concerns

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If you have any concerns about the levels of home learning or the content etc., please see your child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about home learning; if there is a problem come in and speak to the teacher about it.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Sparsholt C of E Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from any intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential. Children who do not have access to the internet are able to use the computers in school or are given an alternative paper based activity to complete.

Teacher responsible :	Mrs E Hanratty
Approved by staff date	November 2019
Governor committee responsible:	Curriculum
Reviewed & agreed by Governors	November 2019
Three year review date	September 2022