

Holywell Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Status:	Non-Statutory
Approval Body:	Governing Body
Review Frequency:	2 Years
Last Review:	February 2018
Next Review:	Spring 2020

Home Learning Policy

Supporting your children's learning at home

We support the development of independent learning by encouraging and extending learning beyond the classroom. It is our aim to provide relevant homework tasks that will consolidate, reinforce and extend skills, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

1. Aims

We value, support and welcome active co-operation between home and school. Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure parents have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their children.
- Extend and support the learning experience.
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership.

2. Objectives

- To devise a framework which is appropriate to the age and needs of the children.
- To provide homework activities that enhance the curriculum.
- To encourage participation by parents in their child's homework.

3. Range of activities

- 3.1 We recognise that the time allocated for homework activities and the scope of activities set will change as children get older and progress through the school.
- 3.2 In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 the key purpose is to actively encourage a partnership with parents through short activities including; reading, phonics, key words, spellings, handwriting and maths work. Interaction between the child and parent will also develop speaking and listening skills.
- 3.3 In Key Stage 2 the main purpose is to encourage independent learning that is developed through a gradual increase in type, content and time spent on activities. Where possible we will try to develop skills through a cross curricular approach. By the end of KS2 the homework programme will include a wide range of literacy and numeracy tasks as well as other curriculum content.
- 3.4 For children with Special Educational Needs there may be support work set relating directly to their Individual Education Plan. The class teacher will oversee this work with input from the Leader of Inclusion.

4. Time

The amount of time spent on homework depends on the age of the child. At Holywell Primary School, based on the Department of Education guidelines, the amount of homework sent home per year groups is as follows:

- EYFS A 'home learning booklet' goes home every Friday which outlines what has been taught and provides parents with activities they can build on and support the learning that has taken place. All children in Nursery will also get a Nursery Rhyme to take home and read with their parents. In Reception pupils will get a Nursery Rhyme or poem to read at home with their parents. Reception children are set an English and Maths task every Friday which is then handed in on a Wednesday.
- Y1 and Y2 There is an expectation that the children read every night for at least 15 mins. During a week, pupils in Key Stage 1 will take home: a book for pleasure reading, a poem and a scheme book or free reading book, depending on their reading ability. In Year 1, reading records are checked daily, in Year 2 weekly. Homework goes home on Friday and focuses on number bonds, times tables, phonics, word recognition and writing. Homework is handed in on a Wednesday. There is a 'homework help club' on a Tuesday, which takes place during morning break or at lunchtime.
- Y3 and Y4 There is an expectation that the children read to an adult every night for at least 20 mins. During a week, pupils in Lower Key Stage 2 will take home: a book for pleasure reading, a poem, and a scheme book or free reading book depending on their reading ability. Their reading records are checked at least weekly. Homework is set on a Friday and focuses on the development of English and Mathematics key skills. Homework is handed in on a Tuesday. There is a 'homework help club' on a Thursday, which takes place during morning break or at lunchtime. There is also a half termly research project that pupils are required to complete.
- Y5 and Y6 There is an expectation that the children read every night for 20 mins. By this stage, most children can read independently, however, it is important for them to read to an adult at least twice a week. During a week, pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 will take home: a book for pleasure reading, a Poem, and a scheme book or free reading book depending on their reading ability. Reading records are checked once a week. Homework for English and Mathematics is set on a Friday, together with spellings and/or times table practice if required. Homework is handed in on a Tuesday. There is a 'homework help club on a Monday, which takes place during morning break or at lunch time. There is also a half termly research project that pupils are required to complete.

This framework is a guideline and will, from time to time, be changed or amended.

5. Feedback

Children will be given feedback about their homework as soon as possible. This may be through verbal feedback, self and peer marking and whole class discussion.

6. Participation

- 6.1 Homework will be set regularly in order to establish a familiar routine. It is expected that all children undertake the homework activities given. Staff may use reward systems to encourage completion of homework.
- 6.2 We would encourage parents to value, support and praise their children in participating in homework activities. Parents will be kept informed about the curriculum content on a termly basis.

7. Communication

We will provide advice and support through:

- School newsletters (normally weekly)
- Curriculum newsletter (half termly)
- Specific guidance such as '*supporting your children's reading at home*' and '*the five steps used to learn times tables*'.
- Parent consultation meetings
- Parent coffee mornings

8. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every two years, or earlier if considered necessary.