



Lakeside Primary School

Home School Learning Policy

Rationale

At Lakeside Primary School we value the partnership between home and school and the support of parents and other carers in promoting children's learning. Parents are the first teachers and main influence on their children's lives, therefore family help and support are critical for each child's educational development.

Valuable activities may not always be perceived as homework. We see homework as, "any work or activity which a pupil is asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers". (Homework Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools)

Involving children in regular family conversation and talk about the world around them is one of the most worthwhile ways in which parents and carers can support the development of communication and social skills and promote the growth of children's knowledge and understanding.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:-

- ❖ provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership to enjoy and enhance learning experiences
- ❖ address the needs of each pupil

- ❖ ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ❖ ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ❖ ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupil
- ❖ extend and support the learning experience by reinforcement and revision
- ❖ encourage children to develop long term strategies for future learning.

Homework tasks will be identified throughout the year. Topic related homework activities are shared with parents and carers through termly homework diaries. Children are also given homework activities to develop English and maths skills. In Foundation stage, Home School Learning books share learning in class and invite children and parents to complete related activities of their choice.

Regular reading to and with parents or carers is vital; all children have reading diaries to record this and enable dialogue between home and school. Children will also be given activities to help learn spellings and develop maths skills, including recall of times tables at home.

We encourage the use of recommended ICT websites and resources to support learning at home and parents are signposted to these on the website and in termly information on the curriculum. The school invests in the on line "I Am Learning" ICT resources to set children engaging and stimulating homework activities and to monitor participation.

Homework diaries will invite children to choose from a range of optional curriculum enrichment activities to encourage creativity with open ended activities which explore and develop the termly theme.

All children are strongly encouraged to complete homework tasks to a good standard and high quality homework is celebrated through rewards and displays. In KS2, Homework Clubs provide children with opportunities to complete homework tasks during the school day.

In all year groups, homework to support individual children's learning needs will be set as and when it is deemed appropriate by the class teacher.

Tasks will be set regularly with a date for completion. They will usually be set and marked by the class teacher or checked through discussion with the class. Children are also able to monitor their own progress using "I Am Learning".

Expectations

Children in the Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 must read regularly at home and are encouraged to complete a half termly topic related activity.

- Foundation Stage pupils have a homework journal in which they are encouraged to complete a weekly activity.
- The expectation is for children in Y1 to complete one spelling related task.
- In Year 2, children are expected to complete one spelling and one maths task per week.
- Children in KS2 will be expected to practice spellings and times tables and complete one maths or English activity per week. They are also encouraged to choose an optional curriculum enrichment activity linked to the termly theme to encourage creativity.

Equal Opportunities

Homework activities will be planned with sensitivity to ensure that they are acceptable to all pupils at an appropriate level.

The role of parents and carers.

We anticipate that parents/carers will support their child by:-

- ❖ engaging them in regular talk and play
- ❖ valuing the importance of home/school learning
- ❖ providing a suitable environment in which to complete homework
- ❖ giving help and support when necessary
- ❖ encouraging and praising their child when tasks are completed.

Parents are very welcome to discuss ways in which they can encourage their child's progress with the class teacher. Teachers are always willing to discuss strategies being used in class and ways to give appropriate support at home. The school offers periodic open sessions and workshops to share ideas on ways in which families can support learning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of the policy will be monitored and evaluated by all the staff through:

- ❖ the effect or contribution the policy is making towards pupil progress
- ❖ pupil attitudes towards learning
- ❖ parental feedback
- ❖ the development of the parent/teacher/child relationship



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Programme of Suggested Activities

The programme of homework for children could include: -

Foundation stage

- ❖ talk, playing games, sharing nursery rhymes etc
- ❖ sharing books frequently
- ❖ activities to develop phonic awareness and practising spelling of “tricky” words as appropriate.
- ❖ practising manipulative skills – e.g. cutting, threading, pencil control
- ❖ practical activities to develop maths concepts
- ❖ ICT activities to develop maths concepts
- ❖ Completing chosen topic related activities in Home School Learning books

Key Stage 1

- ❖ involving children in regular conversation
- ❖ sharing a book with an adult daily if possible and no less than four times a week
- ❖ practising “tricky” word spellings **when** appropriate and be able to spell in different contexts
- ❖ practise application of phonic skills
- ❖ practise times tables and mental and written calculations and recall in different situations
- ❖ practical activities to develop maths concepts

- ❖ “I Am Learning” ICT activities covering all curriculum areas
- ❖ ICT activities to develop maths concepts.
- ❖ engage in informal, open ended activities to support work in other curriculum areas.

Key Stage 2

- ❖ involving children in regular conversation
- ❖ sharing a book with an adult daily if possible and no less than three times a week
- ❖ learning spellings and carrying out spelling related activities
- ❖ practise times tables, number bonds, mental and written calculations and recall in different situations
- ❖ engage in informal, open ended activities to support topic related work
- ❖ “I Am Learning” ICT activities covering all curriculum areas
- ❖ practical activities to develop maths concepts
- ❖ ICT activities to develop maths concepts

Policy reviewed :- September 2017

Review date :- September 2018

The policy was reviewed in September 2017 and published on the website to enable parents to feedback their views.