

NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Children's first and most important teachers are their parents.

Learning starts in the home. Talking, listening, playing games. Exploring the local area – the park, the woods, the seaside. Children are little apprentices, learning alongside their family members. As parents we model learning behaviours – cooking, making, fixing, tidying, reading. At school we build on these foundations and want to help you to continue to support and develop your child's social, emotional and academic development.

Home Learning is bigger than the set task that teachers send home. Sharing books, promoting a love of reading and words; doing things together which promote curiosity – these things continue to be seen to be the most effective way for parents to help their children.

School builds on this. We want children to be enthused by their school work: "When I really like a topic I go home and want to find out more about it." (Appendix B)

Tasks that teachers set provide additional opportunities to improve children's skills, knowledge and understanding.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to:

- Ensure a consistent approach to home learning throughout the school
- To ensure that parents, children and teachers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves with regard to home learning.

We aim through set homework to:

- Ensure that the needs of the individual are taken into account
- Enable the child to apply/revise skills and concepts learned in school
- Reinforce the partnership with parents in the education of children by providing opportunities for parents and pupils to enjoy learning together
- Exploit a wide range of resources for learning, which may be found in the home or as a family project
- Extend and support school learning through research carried out at home or in the local library with parental guidance
- Encourage pupils to develop the self-discipline and study skills needed for independent learning
- To prepare for secondary transfer at year 6

Equal opportunities

Homework can disadvantage some children. We try to overcome this by:

1. Matching the task to the strengths of the child.
2. Ensuring all children have necessary equipment and never making assumptions about what children have in the home.
3. Never expecting homework to be handed in the following day.
4. Running lunchtime and afterschool clubs.

Definition of homework

- Any activity or work that children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with the support of parents or carers
- These tasks need not be formal or written assignments
- They will consist of a range of activities that are purposeful, enjoyable and varied

Amount of homework

The amount and nature of homework will change as children move through the school, as will the level of support that they require. Homework is explained to parents through termly letters.

Promoting positive attitudes towards homework

Due recognition is given to the time and effort that children put into their homework tasks as well as the quality. Celebrating effort promotes positive attitudes towards homework. For instance, showing work to the class or in good work assembly and the presentation of Good Work Certificates.

Communication

Meet your Child's New Teacher are held towards the end of the summer term. Parents and children attend these meetings during the school day. Their purpose is to explain the routines and expectations for the year ahead. A letter is sent home to support this message. Further letters are sent out at the start of the spring and summer terms. The purpose is to explain routines, tasks and expectations.

At this initial meeting for Reception and Nursery parents, teachers explain how TAPESTRY is used to promote and support home learning.

From Year 1 upwards *Weekly News* letters are sent home for every year group. These bulletins inform parents of key learning through the week and provide advice on how to promote learning at home.

Home School Accord

This document (Appendix A) sets out the expectations and responsibilities on staff, parents and children. All new parents and children are given the Home School Accord to sign as part of their introduction to the school. The Home School Accord is distributed to renew parent, child and school commitment to learning every other year.

Monitoring

Quality of Homework	Team Leaders	Termly
Child attitudes	School Council	Annually
Parental Attitudes	Parent Governors	Annually

The Senior Management Team will report to the Curriculum Committee in the summer term.

Appendices

Appendix A	Home School Accord
Appendix B	How We Can Continue our Learning Outside of School. (School Council Document to be published Autumn 2016)

Discussed and approved by Curriculum Committee: June 2016