



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
Reviewed: November 2017



North Primary School And Nursery
HOME SCHOOL ACCORD

The School will:	The Parent will:	My name is and I will:
Provide a safe, stimulating and well-ordered environment which fosters good relationships and a sense of belonging to the school community.	Ensure my child attends school regularly and is punctual and smartly presented in school uniform and has P.E. kit in school.	Be safe, make sure other children feel safe and try to help others when in need.
Encourage with praise and positive reinforcement, high standards of personal achievement for each child, through a well-planned curriculum with quality teaching.	Contribute to the life of the school, for example through involvement in school-related activities such as assemblies, performances, fetes etc.	Always do my best, asking for help when I need it so that I can succeed in all that I do.
Value the children as individuals and respect their rights and beliefs by offering equal opportunities to all whilst respecting and celebrating their differences.	Encourage the increasing independence and responsibility of my child. Promote understanding of all within our school community and beyond.	Learn to take responsibility for my actions and be tolerant and understanding of others.
Communicate regularly and in a timely way with parents and respond quickly to their problems and concerns.	Consult with the classteacher to discuss general progress and inform the classteacher of any problem that may be affecting my child.	Pass on school letters and messages to my parents and hand in letters and reply slips to my classteacher.
Deal fairly and promptly with children's problems and concerns.	Work with the school to help overcome my child's problems if and when they occur.	Ask for help with a problem from a member of staff if I cannot resolve it myself.
Give children homework – as stated in the School Home Learning Policy – and give feedback	Support my child to complete homework and to help hand work in on time.	Make sure that I do my homework and hand it in on time.
Headteacher's signature	Parent's signature	Pupil's signature

HOMEWORK SURVEY
JUNE 2016
CONDUCTED BY THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

COMPLETED BY 10 CLASSES
(Y2-Y6)

Do you like homework?													
												total	%
Always	16	10	8	9	5	9	0	10	4	0		71	25
Mostly	7	5	11	2	13	3	14	5	3	14		77	29
Sometimes	5	5	9	7	3		6	9	21	6		71	26
Never	1	11	3	1	7	9	7	2	1	7		49	19
						5						total:	268

Do you think your homework is easier than your classwork?													
												total	%
Always	16	31	15	6	6	7	1	6	4	1		93	35
Mostly	7	0	10	0	9	8	5	16	16	5		76	31
Sometimes	4	0	2	16	11	9	10	2	8	10		72	23
Never	1	0	3	4	0	0	11	1	1	11		32	11
												total:	273

Do you find homework useful?													
												total	%
Always	23	9	24	9	8	11	9	14	6	9		122	45
Mostly	1	2	1	2	10	6	1	10	11	1		45	17
Sometimes	3	5	3	7	4	5	13	3	11	13		67	25
Never	1	9	2	11	1	2	4	0	1	4		35	13
												total:	269

Does your teacher mark and return your homework?													
												total	%
Always	20	12	5	29	21	30	27	19	19	27		209	75
Mostly	3	7	10	0	9	0	2	1	3	2		37	13
Sometimes	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	2	6	0		23	8
Never	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		7	3
												total:	276

How often do you read at home by yourself?													
												total	%
Everyday	9	8	20	16	16	21	14	21	22	14		161	53
3x week	6	7	3	3	8	1	1	1	3	1		34	11
1x week	5	5	2	12	3	5	8	3	32	8		83	27
Never	5	6	4	1	1	0	3	2	1	3		26	9
												total:	304

How often do you go on Skoolbo?													
												total	%
Everyday	4	9	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		20	7
3x week	4	4	2	8	5	0	4	2	2	4		35	13
1x week	6	4	7	6	4	3	4	13	11	4		62	23
Never	7	11	17	11	18	23	19	12	16	19		153	57
												total:	270

Are you a <i>do it at the last minute kind of person</i>?													
												total	%
Yes	8	10	14	5	15	12	14	12	22	14		126	47
No	18	15	14	24	13	18	8	16	7	8		141	53
												total:	267

Do you like to find out more about your topics at home?													
												total	%
Yes	19	19	21	29	18	16	7	7	19	7		162	60
No	3	9	9	0	10	0	22	21	10	22		106	40
												total:	268

Are you a member of Colchester Library?													
												total	%
Yes	15	18	18	17	16	16	14	13	18	14		159	58
No	10	10	12	14	12	14	8	14	11	8		113	42
												total:	272

What is hard about homework?	What is easy about homework?
<p>Sometimes challenging for me When it's a challenge Finding time When you get stuck When you get stuck for ideas Grown-ups at home interfering, trying to make it harder Not having a teacher to help Your brain switches off at the weekend It is not always easy to understand the extension activity Sometimes forget maths strategies Literacy when you need to imagine Don't know how hard it is until you get home Parents and siblings can't offer same level of support Not having the equipment needed More distractions at home</p>	<p>Learnt about it in class usually Not always a hard challenge It does not take too much time If you listen in lesson it makes it easier at home Maths games Times tables If someone helps me with the whole task Prefer to do work at home on own</p>

What are your favourite homework activities?	
<p>research problem solving calculations science drawing making things writing.... Story writing history French (Skoolbo) Reading Art</p>	<p>working systematically maths games spelling menu activities times tables step by step guides Pobble projects making posters activities which are competitive mind maps challenges</p>

What do you like about it?

"It helps me at school."

"I learn things I did not know."

"It challenges me."

"It makes you grow your brain."

"It makes me practise what I have done at school."

"It helps me when we have tests."

"It helps work get stuck in my head."

"It helps me explain what I am doing at school to parents."

"It is calming."

"It fills spare time."

"It allows you to re-do it with different questions."

"Practising skills at home."

"I like playing games with others."

"I like using the spelling menu."

"I like it when it is fun."

"I like arty/creative tasks."

"It gets you prepared for the next time you do the same thing."

"Stop me watching TV."

Best Quote: "You can always do extra home learning."