

Oakwood Primary Academy Home Learning Policy



Changes

Version: 7

Policy implemented: September 2012

Previous Reviews: September 2013, November 2014, October 2015, October 2016, September 2017, September 2018

Next Review due: September 2019

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the school office.

Oakwood Primary Academy

Home Learning Policy

Rationale

Learning at home is an essential part of a good education. Regular home learning or homework is important because it gives children the opportunity to practise at home the tasks done in class and helps them work towards improving important skills. It also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and later in adult life. Home learning activities are an important part of the home/school partnership. All children are expected to take part in a variety of home learning tasks to enhance and support their work in class.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Create a positive and meaningful communication between home and school.
- Encourage children and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Mathematics and English.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.

Home Learning expectations

- The nature and type of home learning changes throughout a child's school career.
- The amount and frequency of home learning should increase as a child gets older.
- Home learning should not cause undue stress on the child, family or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
- Home learning should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

The responsibilities of the child:

- To look after your home learning/homework book and reading book.
- To complete tasks to the best of your ability.
- To plan ahead.
- To take responsibility for as much of your home learning as you can.
- To take pride in the presentation and content of your work.
- To ask your teacher for help if you do not understand the home learning task you have been given.

The responsibilities of the school:

- To set up regular home learning/homework in an easily followed routine.
- To inform parents of the home learning routine at the start of each year.
- To set appropriate home learning.
- To acknowledge that home learning has been seen by the class teacher. (This may take the form of a book stamp, initials or when appropriate, a short written comment.)
- To ensure that home learning is set consistently across classes in the year group.
- To ensure children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved.
- To ensure any home learning is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete home learning tasks.

The responsibilities of the parent:

- To sign a home-school agreement related to home learning/homework.
- To take a keen interest in your child's home learning.
- To encourage a positive attitude to home learning.
- To provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets.
- To support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning.
- To encourage your child to hand in home learning on time.
- To help your child where necessary.
- To let the school know if your child has had difficulties completing tasks.

Inclusion and Equality

At Oakwood Primary Academy we welcome all children. Where a child has a recognised disability we will make all reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs in school. This will include the availability of resources and accessibility of the school building and site. We will make every effort to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs maintain their entitlement when they enter the school.

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all children; Irrespective of race, gender, disability, religion and belief, or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and are able to participate fully in school life.

General

- If a child is absent due to illness we will not send home learning home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- An agreement with a parent and the teacher can be reached if a child is off school for a significant period of time due to an extended illness or hospitalisation.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about home learning/homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

Home Learning Tasks and Time Allocation

Year Group	Time allocation	Home Learning Set
Foundation	10 minutes per night	<p>Please try to share a book or read at home every night.</p> <p>Library books – changed in school at least once a week to share with your child at home.</p> <p>Reading books will be sent home when your child is ready to progress to home school books. This will be after he or she has completed the initial stages of the Read Write Inc programme.</p> <p>Take home high frequency words and tricky words.</p> <p>Take home number cards.</p> <p>Home learning - set weekly in a Busy Book</p>
Year 1 and 2	1 hour per week	<p>Spellings - set weekly (yr 1 after ½ term)</p> <p>Reading - daily and reading diary to be signed at home</p> <p>Read Write Inc - phonic learning tasks (Spring and Summer Term)</p> <p>English or topic - set weekly</p> <p>Mathematics - set weekly</p> <p>Home learning will be kept in a home learning book</p>
Year 3 and 4	1 and ½ hours per week	<p>Spellings - set weekly</p> <p>Reading – and reading diary to be signed at home and brought to school the next day</p> <p>Mathematics - set weekly</p> <p>English or topic tasks selected from the termly topic grid</p> <p>Multiplication Tables</p> <p>Homework will be kept in a homework book</p>
Year 5 and 6	30 minutes per night (5 nights)	<p>Mathematics - set weekly</p> <p>English or topic - set weekly</p> <p>Spellings - set weekly</p> <p>Reading –15 minutes daily and reading diary to be signed at home and brought to school the next day</p> <p>Multiplication Tables – daily</p> <p>Homework will be kept in a homework folder</p>

Tips for parents and carers

Research tells us that the main distraction for children when completing home learning is television or engaging in social media. We would advise children to work in a room away from the television if possible. This also applies to other devices such as mobile phones, tablets or games consoles.

Try to encourage your child to:

- Take responsibility for their home learning and plan ahead.
- Organise a weekly routine for doing home learning, as they may have other commitments during the week which will take up a lot of their time.
- Avoid leaving it until the last minute.
- To do homework/ home learning regularly.

As a parent try to:

- Be positive about home learning and have clear rules.
- Praise and encourage as work is being done.
- Supervise but from a distance to encourage independence.
- Please take time to check that the work is properly completed and neatly presented.

Please see our school website for ideas and suggestions from the **Getting into Homework** publication from the DfE.