



Home Learning Policy

Introduction

Home Learning is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with home learning.

Rationale for home learning

Home learning is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to home learning in the 1997 White Paper 'Excellence in Schools', in which home learning was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see home learning as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing home learning is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of home learning are: to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development; to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner; to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning; to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth; to provide educational experiences not possible in school; to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons; to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of home learning

- Staff and pupils regard home learning as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.
- Amount of home learning - suggested overview of home learning across all year groups. A week is counted as a school week – 5 days only. All times are approximate.

Learning Focus	
Reading for pleasure	Children need to be reading regularly at home this means 10 minutes at least three times a week. Please sign your child's reading diary to indicate you have completed this. Older children can sign it themselves.
Phonics / Spelling	Weekly Little and often works well
English or Maths	A weekly task, linked to what children have learnt, set once a week KS1 10-15 minutes per week KS2 15-20 minutes per week
Times Tables	These are so important to learn. Please use TT rock stars to practice. Again, little and often works well.

Science (project / revision)	Half-termly or termly- teacher discretion
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- As they move through the school, we increase the amount of home learning that we give the children as this better prepares them for the transition to secondary school.
- We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting home learning to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils One Plans.

Home Learning Platform

Wherever possible the school sets home learning via our home learning platform Google Classroom. All children are given login details as they begin school in EYFS and are assigned to their classes. This platform is also used for times when children cannot be in school due to unforeseen circumstances.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents and carers to complete the Reading Diaries each time a book has been completed at least once a week, and to sign it as requested.

If parents and carers have any questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher.

Use of ICT / Computing

- Teachers and children at Great Waltham Primary have access to Google Classroom and home learning may be placed on this Learning Platform so children can access tasks / learning at home. This home learning may be supported by resources on paper that are given to the pupils.
- Children also have access to My Maths and Times Tables Rockstars and teachers are able to set and monitor maths related tasks on these platforms.
- The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.
- There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website / learning platform provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet. Please refer to our Online Safety Policy.

Monitoring and review

A named member of staff is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. We allocate time for this vital task. The coordinator uses this time to inspect samples of the children's work and of the teachers' planning.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school home learning policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents and carers complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body

pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way in which home learning is organised in our school.

Policy adopted by Staff:	October 2022
To be reviewed:	October 2024