

Oxford Gardens Primary School

Home Learning Policy



What is Home Learning?

Home Learning is two-fold:

- i) **The actual Home Learning that the teachers at school have set for the pupils to complete at home – for KS1 and KS2 this is compulsory.**
- ii) **Learning experiences that the pupils have out of school which are developed by parents/carers.**

The purpose of Home Learning

- to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in pursuing the development of their child;
- to provide opportunities for parents and children to work together and enable parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding;
- to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own;
- to prepare pupils for Secondary School.

The aims of this policy

- to ensure a consistent approach to home learning throughout the school;
- to ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for home learning;
- to ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to home learning.

What is the role of the school?

- to provide parents with a clear policy regarding home learning;
- to ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed;
- to provide support for parents with information about home learning;
- to provide support for children in Years 5 and 6 with the running of Home Learning clubs.

THE FOLLOWING RELATES TO i) HOME LEARNING

What is the role of the teacher?

- to plan and set a programme of Home Learning that is appropriate to the needs of the pupils and to ensure that the work the children are set is explained in their Home Learning Books;
- to ensure that all children understand the Home Learning they have been set;
- to mark and give feedback about Home Learning – teachers are required to make a comment that recognises the effort the child has made and reward up to 3 merits for each piece of Home

Learning; misconceptions are addressed with the individual child or with the whole class depending on which is most appropriate;

- to inform parents and children if there is a problem regarding Home Learning.

What is the role of the parent?

- to support the child in completing the Home Learning – the best way to support your child is to ensure they have a suitable place to do their learning, to ensure they don't leave their work until the last minute, to read and discuss books with them, to help practice their spellings and if needed to guide them with their task. However, this does not mean doing their Home Learning for them because if the work is too hard for them to do independently then the teacher needs to know this so they can help your child;
- to ensure the child completes their Home Learning and hands it in on time;
- to provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete their Home Learning;
- if appropriate, to write a comment to the teacher on the level of support the child has received from home with the task/work;
- to encourage your child to actively seek their Home Learning if they are absent on a Friday.

What is the role of the child?

- to ensure they have everything they need to complete their Home Learning each week;
- to make sure they understand the tasks they have been set;
- to put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work;
- to hand the Home Learning in on time;
- to take on board any feedback about Home Learning;
- ensure they actively seek Home Learning if they are absent on a Friday.

When is Home Learning handed out and expected to be handed in?

- in Reception home learning tasks will be given out fortnightly on a Friday and need to be handed in 2 weeks later on the Wednesday;
- in all Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes the home learning tasks will be given out on a Friday and needs to be handed in by the following Wednesday.

How will children know what their Home Learning is?

- all children in reception will have a home learning book with their home learning task stuck inside;
- all children in Key Stage 1 and 2 will have a Home Learning book – the children will be given time in class to either write their home learning task in their book or to stick in a sheet explaining their task;
- the task set will complement work the children have done in school;
- tasks set for home learning are differentiated or open-ended which means all children are able to complete the task at their level.

What type of Home Learning will my child get?

i) Reception:

- Once your child is ready for a reading book they will be given one each week to take home
- Pupils will be given sound cards and/or key vocab cards on a regular basis
- 1 x Home Learning task will be given each week – this will either be literacy, numeracy or a task linked to their current IPC topic.

ii) Key Stage 1:

- 5 x 10 minutes reading each week (Year 1 and 2 change their books every Monday and Thursday)
- Spellings to learn for weekly test and a phonics activity based on these words
- 1 x Home Learning task per week – this will be alternated between literacy and numeracy
- Home learning project – 1 for each IPC unit – these are not compulsory
- Extension tasks – the teachers will show the children in class any activities on Igfl or other websites that can be accessed at home.

ii) Lower Key Stage 2:

- 5 x 20 minutes reading each week
- Spellings to learn for weekly test
- 2 x Home Learning tasks (approx 20-30 mins) per week – one literacy and one numeracy
- Home learning project – 1 for each IPC unit – these are not compulsory
- Extension tasks – the teachers will show the children in class any activities on Igfl or other websites that can be accessed at home.

iii) Upper Key Stage 2:

- 5 x 30 minutes reading each week
- Spellings to learn for weekly test
- 2 x Home Learning tasks (approx 30-45 mins) per week – one literacy and one numeracy
- Home learning project – 1 for each IPC unit – these are not compulsory
- Extension tasks – the teachers will show the children in class any activities on Igfl or other websites that can be accessed at home.

*There may be certain times in the year when children are given additional Home Learning – in particular in Year 6 when the children are approaching their SATs and this is at the discretion of the class teacher.

Spellings

Key Stage 1:

Children in Key Stage 1 will receive their spelling words (up to 7) from their phonics teacher. All KS1 children will receive their spelling words on a Friday and will be tested on them on a Wednesday.

Key Stage 2:

Depending on the class, children will receive up to 12 spelling words a week – once they have been given the words they will have at least 3 days to learn them – classes will have tests on different days, the day of your child's test will, where possible, be the same each week.

What will happen if Home Learning is not done properly?

Home Learning in Reception is not compulsory therefore no action will be taken by the teacher if home learning is not completed.

Any home learning that has not been completed, in KS1 or KS2, or if a teacher feels it has not been completed satisfactorily needs to be completed in the classroom during their lunch time on a Friday – this is called Home Learning Detention.

What is a Home Learning Club?

The school will provide a supportive and safe area in school for children in Years 5 and 6 to complete their Home Learning and carry out self-study. The club takes place on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes.

THE FOLLOWING RELATES TO ii) LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT THE PUPILS HAVE OUT OF SCHOOL WHICH ARE DEVELOPED BY PARENTS/CARERS.

In order for a child to really achieve their potential their learning should take place both at home and at school. The vast majority of parents want to do their best for their children but we are aware that many are unsure of how to do this and struggle to do so.

There are so many different ways parents can help their child/ren with their learning throughout their whole time at Primary school (and of course from before this time and beyond).

Here are just a few of the ways you can support your child with Home Learning:

- a) Developing adult-child relationships that are loving, warm and responsive –this involves; listening, responding and talking; engaging in shared thinking as a normal part of daily life - explaining, speculating, describing, making connections and open questioning.
- b) Giving opportunities and encouragement to explore and develop independence whilst offering support when needed.
- c) Providing real experiences that make sense to children and including children in everyday routines by giving your child/ren opportunities to learn in meaningful, enjoyable contexts (e.g. – measuring and weighing with cooking; handling money when shopping).
- d) Going on visits. We are lucky to live in such a vibrant and exciting city that is incredibly rich with what it has to offer, most museums and galleries are free and the majority have special events on during school holidays.
- e) Creating opportunities for children to have friends to play – this is crucial for developing your child's social skills.

- f) Recognising success and praising to build confidence and self-esteem.
- g) Oral storytelling - sharing stories at home about everyday life, past experiences etc.
- h) Using a wide variety of texts - reading with and to children and encouraging a discussion of the texts that have been read.

Using Technology at Home:

It has been proven that in primary schools, ICT has a positive impact on Teaching & Learning. Home learning can provide an amazing opportunity for the creative use of ICT to be explored. Multi-media programs, photography, filming, animation and programming applications provide a wealth of resources that can be used as creative learning tools. Inspire your child to present their experiences with you at home.

Mobile devices provide home access to a vast wealth of digital content. Experiment with apps and games which have educational content such as maths, phonics, programming, e-books etc. It is also worth using websites such as CBBC to access news articles and other information/videos etc. Every child has their own login for the London Grid for Learning (LGFL) – each pupil’s login and password is written in their home learning books. This website has an online wealth of resources, games and learning tools to support and enhance their learning. In particular we recommend that the pupils use J2blast, Purple Mash, Busy Things and Maths at Home.

The school is 100% committed to helping parents with Home Learning and to help with this will run annual workshops for parents to support with this.

July 2017

The policy was adopted by the Governing Body as its meeting on _____

Signature of Chairperson of Governing Body _____

Signature of Headteacher _____

Review July 2019