

Hampton Lucy C of E Primary School and Nursery

Home Learning Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Home learning is anything that 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 to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with home learning.

2 Rationale for home learning

- 2.1 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', where home learning was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that home learning is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 2.2 Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. 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 wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 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 a partnership 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 learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
 - to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of home learning

- 4.1** We set a variety of home learning activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings or mathematical tables as part of their home learning. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local library and the Internet.
- 4.2** At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of home learning activities outlined in paragraph 4.1 but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set home learning routinely each week and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home. We also set home learning to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

5 Amount of home learning

- 5.1** We increase the amount of home learning that we give the children as they move through the school. We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing home learning, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15–20 minutes per night on home learning and children in years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night.

6 Pupils with special educational needs

- 6.1** 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. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

7 The role of parents

- 7.1** Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents 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.
- 7.2** If parents have any problems or 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. Finally, if they wish

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to make a complaint about the school home learning policy or the way it is implemented parents should contact the governing body.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1** 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 complete a questionnaire during the school's OFSTED inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way home learning is organised in our school.

Date of last Review: January 2017

Date of next scheduled Review: January 2020