



WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Date ratified: 25 September 2017

Ratified by: Full Governing Board

Date to be reviewed: September 2019 by the Curriculum, Staff and Pupils Committee



WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Home Learning Policy

September 2017

Approach to Home Learning

A good, well-managed Home Learning programme helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need, for successful lifelong learning. Home Learning also supports the development of independent learning skills, and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.

At Westfield Primary School and Nursery, we recognise the vital role parents play in their children's learning. We strongly believe in the value of a home-school partnership, of which our Home Learning Policy is an important element. Home Learning is most successful when parents take a genuine interest, are supportive and organise the home environment so that effective home learning can take place.

We believe in the importance of children developing as well-rounded, balanced individuals and have designed our Home Learning Policy to reflect this. Whilst Home Learning is important we are fully aware of the demands of modern family life and are keen not to overload children, or their parents, with too much of it.

Teachers at Westfield Primary School and Nursery have high expectations of their pupils all day, every day from Monday to Friday. We believe that our Home Learning policy reflects what is a reasonable expectation for Home Learning for Primary aged children. If parents wish their children to do Home Learning in addition to that set by the school, there are a number of websites and other resources available on which teachers are able to advise.

What is Home Learning?

At Westfield Primary School and Nursery, Home Learning refers to any activities which children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.

Aims of our Home Learning policy

Through our policy we aim to:

- provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and school to work in partnership
- encourage a positive attitude to work
- consolidate and reinforce skills and knowledge learnt at school
- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding of our expectations in relation to the children's learning
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility

Expectations

Teachers will:

- be consistent in their implementation of the policy
- set the agreed Home Learning on a regular basis

- acknowledge and reward effort for Home Learning
- set Home Learning which takes account of different interests, opportunities and levels of ability
- take into account pupils' access to resources when setting tasks i.e. computers, the Internet and libraries
- set Home Learning which is part of the planned curriculum
- ensure that children know exactly what is expected of them

Children will:

- be given guidance on how to do a piece of Home Learning
- children will complete their home learning to the best of their ability
- take ownership and become an independent learner
- be expected to do their Home Learning and return it on time

Parents will:

- provide their child with a quiet place for doing Home Learning
- set aside time for their child to do Home Learning
- be interested and talk to their child about their Home Learning
- encourage their child to use whatever resources are available to them, including visits to libraries, museums etc.
- monitor Home Learning to ensure it is completed to the best of their child's ability and handed in on time

Guidelines for Home Learning

Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage children will be expected to share books with an adult daily. In Year R, children may occasionally also be set other home learning tasks e.g. learning key words or number work.

Key Stages 1 and 2

English and Maths

- Children will be given a Home Learning task in English and/or Maths each week, depending on the Key Stage they are in. Children in KS1 will have one piece of either English/Topic or Maths a week, whereas children in KS2 will take home English/Topic and Maths homework each week. These tasks may sometimes be linked to other curriculum areas. Occasionally Topic homework may be set to be completed over a longer period of time.
- Tasks will relate to the work the children are doing in class.
- Mathematical development is dependent on children having a secure grasp of multiplication facts (tables) and it is therefore vital that all children have a secure knowledge of these as well as, in KS2, the associated division facts. Times tables practice should, therefore, be carried out by children regularly at home (several times a week).

Reading

- Children should read every day at home for a minimum of 10 minutes. In most cases, this will be the child reading to an adult on a one-to-one basis. In addition to this, reading sessions could also include listening to taped stories and listening to stories read by parents/carers using a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Electronic texts e.g. official regulated websites and eBooks can also be used.
- It is vital for all children to discuss the text with parents/carers in order to extend their understanding. Children who read regularly to an adult make more progress than those who do not.
- Reading sessions at home should be recorded in the Reading Record Books and signed by an adult.

Spellings

The quantity of spellings to be learned at home will vary from year group to year group but will be set on a weekly basis and checked through a test or dictation each week. This will be communicated to parents at the Meet the Teacher Meetings at the beginning of each year and in the termly newsletter.

Suggested time allocations for home learning tasks:

Year Group	Task(s)	Time allocation (for guidance only)
EYFS	Reading/ book sharing/ phonics and key words from the Spring term	Daily – 10 minutes
1	Reading/ Key words Spellings English/Maths task	Daily – 10 minutes Daily practice Weekly task - 15 minutes
2	Reading Spellings Times tables English/Maths task	Daily – 10 minutes Daily practice Daily practice Weekly task - 20 minutes
3	Reading Spellings Times tables English/Topic task Maths task	Daily – at least 10 minutes Daily practice Daily practice Weekly task – 15 minutes Weekly task – 15 minutes
4	Reading Spellings Times tables English/Topic task Maths task	Daily – at least 10 minutes Daily practice Daily practice Weekly task – 20/25 minutes Weekly task – 20/25 minutes
5	Reading Spellings Times tables English/Topic task Maths task	Daily – at least 10 minutes Daily practice Daily practice Weekly task – 30 minutes Weekly task – 30 minutes
6	Reading Spellings Times tables English/Topic task Maths task	Daily – at least 10 minutes Daily practice Daily practice Weekly task – 45 minutes Weekly task – 45 minutes