



WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Date ratified: July 2022
Ratified by: Full Governing Board
Date to be reviewed: July 2025 by the Curriculum Committee



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Home Learning Policy

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This policy was written after consultation with class teachers, children and parents.

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
- 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, a weekly newsletter will go out which reflects the learning in school that week and some suggested activities which could be done at home in follow up.

Key Stages 1 and 2

Weekly home learning will be standard across the whole school. There is an expectation that the following tasks are completed at home:

DAILY 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.
- In KS1, Reading certificates will be given to children once they have read 50, 100, 150 and 200 times at home. These will be given out in assembly.

WEEKLY 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 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.

HALF TERMLY Number Fact Practise

Mathematical development is dependent on children having a secure grasp of key number facts (including number bonds and multiplication/division facts). It is therefore vital that all children have a secure knowledge of these and times tables practice should, therefore, be carried out by children regularly at home (several times a week).

Each half term a 'Key Instant Recall' list will be sent home of the key facts your child should be focusing on that half term.

HALF TERMLY Suggested Activities

To support learning across all subjects, each half term there will be a list of **optional** suggested activities that the children can complete at home. These activities will focus on supporting the learning in school that half term and will focus on hands on activities, family orientated tasks and independent learning opportunities. These may include but will not be limited to:

- Suggested trips and experiences
- Cooking
- Project work including family projects
- Scavenger hunts
- Map work
- Junk modelling
- Posters
- Observations
- Listening to music
- Performance poetry
- Maths games
- Quizzes
- Work about the local area
- Understanding Family history
- Photos
- Story telling
- Planting
- Nature walks
- Creative writing
- Vehicle surveys
- Research
- Painting/ drawing
- Fact files

These suggested activities are **NOT** compulsory however we encourage families to engage with those that peak their child's interests. Any tasks completed will be shared in the last week of each half term. Children will be invited to bring in any home learning they have completed relating to these tasks to share with their class and class teacher where they will be celebrated.

Year 6

In addition to the above, we believe that to support the transition of Year 6 to secondary school, it is appropriate that they receive more structured weekly learning which focuses on English and Maths. As such, Year 6 will receive weekly tasks on a **FRIDAY**, to be handed in on a **WEDNESDAY**. This work will be set from the CGP books supplied by school.