

Warboys Community Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Date: May 2017

Date Policy Adopted: June 2017

Date Policy to be Reviewed: prior to June 2020

Home Learning Policy

The Warboys School Home Learning Policy promotes learning at home as an essential part of good education. Home Learning not only reinforces classroom learning, it also helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning.

Whilst we recognise that Home Learning is an important component of the teaching and learning process, we also recognise that it is important for children to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

This policy was updated in May 2017 as a result of consultations with children, parents, staff and Governors.

The Benefits of Home Learning

We believe that home learning is valuable because it:

- ✓ Allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class
- ✓ Teaches children how to plan and organise their time
- ✓ Establishes good habits of study, concentration and self-discipline
- ✓ Develops children's research skills
- ✓ Provides an opportunity for parents to support their children and to gain an increased understanding of the learning, which they are doing in school.

Implementation

We believe that learning is a shared responsibility between children, parents and staff. In order to achieve this goal, we will work together with parents and carers as a partnership, expanding the curriculum, extending it to the home and building on experiences shared outside school.

School

We will ensure that Home Learning :

- ✓ Is planned as an integral part of the curriculum
- ✓ Is appropriate to the age and ability and needs of all children
- ✓ Is purposeful, structured and wide ranging
- ✓ Is clearly explained to the children and expectations with regards to
- ✓ High expectation of presentation and quality are clearly shared
- ✓ Is clearly explained to parents through the unit newsletters, instruction sheets
- ✓ Is marked in line with the Marking and Feedback Policy on a regular basis (this will be a combination of marking and stampers)
- ✓ Is useful and manageable
- ✓ Can be supported at a home learning club.

NB. Mathematical strategies that we expect children to use in their Home Learning will be clearly explained on the Home Learning sheet and by an example provided. Further guidance can be found in the Maths Calculations Booklet which can be found on the school website.

Teachers will ensure that a regular record is kept of all home learning. Where there are children failing to do such work, teachers will contact parents to discuss the reasons for this and to plan a way forward.

Teachers will reward children completing all home learning.

Home

Parents/Carers can help to support their child in completing their home learning tasks by:

- ✓ Taking an active interest
- ✓ Providing support and encouragement so tasks are completed to a high standard
- ✓ Ensuring that time is set aside to complete the tasks
- ✓ Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of Home Learning and their child's approach to it
- ✓ Alerting the school to any changes in their child's circumstances which may affect the completion of Home Learning tasks
- ✓ Ensuring that Home Learning is handed in on time
- ✓ Signing the home learning each week
- ✓ Signing the reading logs regularly

Our Recommendations

We have incorporated into our home learning guidelines our daily recommended reading of 15 minutes for all children building up to and 25 minutes by year 6. This is to build up their stamina of reading and reading fluency.

All home learning will be in line with both the revised National Curriculum and a standard approach will be adopted in both Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2. In order to ensure a balance between out of school activities and home learning, reasonable time will be given for children to complete the task and hand it in on time. This is made clear to parents and children via the year group newsletter. Staff will ensure that age appropriate games on Education City are available on line for children who wish to do additional activities to those set each week. Also at the beginning of the year children will be given a copy of the key words to learn for their year group and a list of times tables to be learnt. Key words will also be available on the school website.

Parents should try to support their child, but if the home learning is extending beyond the guidance regularly, there may be a problem for which we would like to offer help and support. Parents should contact the class teachers to seek the relevant guidance and support with Home Learning.

The Foundation Stage

Generally teachers will not set formal Home Learning in the Foundation Stage. We recognise that all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. Activities that we encourage include:

- ✓ Shopping
- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Library visits, listening to stories, songs and rhymes
- ✓ Visits
- ✓ Collecting, counting and sorting items

All children in the Foundation Stage will take home one or two reading books from the Levelled reading books. Foundation children will also have keywords to practise based on the phonemes taught each week.

The Foundation Stage develops and celebrates the development of independent skills at home through the 'WOW notices' - a useful link between school and home on the pupils' progress towards the Early Years curriculum.

Key Stage One - Years One & Two

Each child is provided with a reading diary and parents are invited to comment in the diary about their child's enjoyment of, or interest in the book.

It is recommended that children read for at least 10-15 minutes each day with an adult.

All children will have age related key words to practise spelling. These key words will be broken down over the weeks but a whole set can be found on the school website.

In addition to this, Year Two children will have a formal piece of home learning, which will consolidate the skills learnt in Numeracy and should take no longer than 20 minutes. Key Stage One Home Learning will usually be sent home by Thursday each week and is to be returned to school by the following Tuesday ready for marking, before the new Home Learning is sent home again.

In the summer term Year 1 and 2 may also be given a home learning menu with a choice of tasks across a range of curriculum subjects. This will be given out to be completed over 3 week period. The children are then given the opportunity to share their learning, and how they achieved their chosen task with the rest of the class. This is celebrated, where possible, by displaying the home learning projects.

Key Stage Two

As children progress through Key Stage 2, children will experience different types of home learning that promotes learning in a range of subjects. They should work with increasing independence. All home learning is usually set by Thursday and is to be returned to school by the following Tuesday.

Reading

It is expected that all children will read every night either independently or with an adult. As a basic rule, children should spend around 15-25 minutes per day reading. From year three onwards, children have a reading book from the Accelerated Reader Scheme. To monitor reading, assessments and quizzes are completed online in school for these books. Children should also use their reading logs to record and monitor their independent reading. Children are encouraged to read a wide range of reading material including fiction, non-fiction, comics and annuals.

As their reading skills develop, children in key stage two read more complex books during guided work in class. It is an expectation that they complete associated work started in class, at home. This may replace the reading of books from the Accelerated Reading Scheme but some children may still prefer to do both.

SPELLINGS

Key words for each year group will be sent home at the beginning of each term. These lists will be broken down into spelling patterns or associated groups to learn. Children are expected to learn how to spell these key words, words they repeatedly spell wrong in their own writing and others useful to their current learning, each week. The given list will be peer checked and a new list developed for the following week. Every half term, a whole class spelling check will be carried out to monitor each child's progress. The spellings given following this check, will include those not yet internalised from previous weekly lists. Children will have opportunities within the week to practice their spellings in activities such as dictations, and to use them in context.

Year Three, Four & Five Literacy & Numeracy

Children will complete a written literacy task which may be linked to their spellings and should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. Where possible, spelling skills will be incorporated into literacy tasks to reinforce the learning in the classroom. Where possible research skills will be incorporated in to specific tasks.

Numeracy Home Learning will be based on consolidating classwork and should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. A continued emphasis is also placed on children learning their tables and practising their mental approaches to solving calculations at home in a problem solving, real life context.

Year Six Literacy & Numeracy

Children in year six engage in a range of activities, which help to develop skills in self-study and independent learning in preparation for the transition to the secondary phase. Greater emphasis is placed on research skills, presentation and quality rather than quantity. Home learning is a mixture of focused and open-ended tasks and will be appropriate to support work in class.

Either a literacy or a theme related activity is set each week and should take approximately 30-40 minutes.

A 30-minute numeracy task is also given in order to consolidate learning and to support the development of problem solving skills. A continued emphasis is also placed on children learning their tables and practising their mental approaches to solving calculations at home in a problem solving, real life context.

Key Stage Two - Projects

Projects are an alternative home learning approach and feature in every Key Stage 2 home learning plan. A project menu will be set each half term and will replace any Literacy home learning. Children will have three full weeks to complete these projects [including the half term break]. Teacher will give projects a verbal comment which will be backed up by a short written comment up to 5 team points.

In Year 6 the same principles apply but the project will last for four weeks to begin to prepare children for life at secondary school with the further research and independent study skills.

SUMMER BREAK

A learning project will be set for the whole school at the start of the summer holidays. The project will be based on a whole school theme with the intention that the quality work produced will be used for a school display at the beginning of the new school year. This will be an optional task for Key Stage One. Certificates and/or up to 5 house points will be awarded for completing this homework.

Marking and Rewarding Home Learning

All homework will be acknowledged. The school will award children for their achievements using stickers and 1-2 house points [up to 5 for projects] and individual praise cards may be presented by the team leaders in Key Stage assemblies throughout the year. Where whole classes have made a significant effort or improvements a whole class treat may be appropriate eg picnic, tea and toast, time on the pirate ship, or a visit to the park etc.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with the schools policy review framework and before June 2020.