

Holly Lodge Primary Academy

Home Learning Policy

This policy has been prepared after consultation with children, parents and staff.



Home learning is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime or visit museums and libraries are helping with home learning.

Rationale

Children, parents and staff consulted believe that home learning is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.

Home learning is an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing home learning is a valuable way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills when encouraged to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Deadlines

Where possible, a week will usually be given for tasks to be completed. However, teachers aim to be responsive to the children's learning and where opportunities arise in the classroom to maximise learning opportunities which require additional research, this may be less than a week. Where home learning is given over the holidays, this will be handed out before the last day, or the deadline set several days into the new term to support families who are away for the whole holiday period.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of home learning are to:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- deepen learning and enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- encourage child initiated learning and for children to pursue an area of interest and present it in a creative way where possible;
- consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- prepare pupils very well for work to come.

Learning Link

These are additional activities, personalised to the individual, to help consolidate learning or to pre-learn (e.g. new vocabulary) as required. These activities usually require more parental support. Please talk to your child's teacher for more guidance on how to help.

Marking and Feedback

Home learning is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning. For example, a maths task may be marked individually or as a whole class or through peer feedback; a topic research task may be shared in the lesson or used as part of a group activity. Half-termly creative tasks will be used as part of a class gallery/museum and parents will be invited into school to celebrate the learning. There may be issues arising from the learning, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach. It is expected that all children will have a go at a task. If learning is not completed in time, children will be expected to complete the task during break or lunch time.

Inclusion and Home Learning

We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the age and stage of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. It is recognised that not all children have the same opportunities at home and support will be given where necessary. It is important that parents/carers feed back to staff any issues that arise with home learning.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers 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.

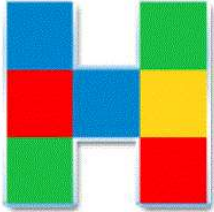
Parents should read with their child at least five days a week to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them. As children become more confident readers, it is important to continue with home reading to develop comprehension skills through questioning about the book.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material that can have a powerful effect on children's learning. A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet. Holly Lodge website has links to some suitable activities.

The following is a guideline to the amount and type of home learning. Please feed back to the class teacher any issues or comments related to home learning. The Reading Record may be used for parent feedback.

	<p>Reading - daily</p> <p>(Minimum expectation)</p>	<p>Maths: weekly (This may be given on a sheet or require a practical application). (Plus times tables and counting practice).</p>	<p>Literacy or other: weekly (This could be practising spelling rules or another activity either written or practical).</p>
<p>Reception</p>	<p>10 minutes a day –</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>	
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>5 times a week.</p>	<p>15 minute activity</p>	<p>15 minute activity</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Parents fill in</p>	<p>20 minute activity</p>	<p>20 minute activity</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>Reading Record.</p>	<p>20 minute activity</p>	<p>20 minute activity</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>15 minutes a day –</p>	<p>20-30 minute activity</p>	<p>20-30 minute activity</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>5 times a week.</p>	<p>20-30 minute activity</p>	<p>20-30 minute activity</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Reading Record completed.</p>	<p>30-minute activity with extra time expected for SATs preparation.</p>	<p>30-minute activity with extra time expected for SATs preparation.</p>

In addition, each half term, there will be a creative task, which will form part of a class museum/gallery. It will usually be related to the topic or other aspect of class learning. This may be presented in any format – the more creative the better. For example: a story/poem/diary; artwork/3D model; photographs; power point/verbal presentation; food.) At least four weeks' notice will be given of the task and children will receive maths or other homework (rather than both) for the duration of the project. The minimum expectation to complete the task will be 30 minutes.