



Home Learning Guidelines

This policy applies to all pupils in the school, including EYFS. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and documents: Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Marking and Feedback, EYFS, Maths, Literacy and the Home School Agreement.

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Approved:	September 2023
Renewal period	Every 1 Year
Review Date:	September 2024

Guidelines from the Government

Schools are encouraged to plan home learning carefully alongside learning that children do at school, and to ensure that all activities are appropriate for individual children. Here are some guidelines to give you an idea of how much time your child should be spending on home learning, and how you can help them.

The emphasis is on how home learning helps your child to learn, rather than on whether it takes a certain amount of time. For example, some children will work quicker than others and get more done in less time. The rough guidelines for primary school children are:

- Reception: up to one hour per week
- Years 1 and 2: one hour per week
- Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day

Why is my child given home learning?

Your child and their teacher work very hard to ensure that every day something new is learnt. Your child is given home learning so that they can practise the new learning they have covered in school and at home and as a result make more rapid progress. It also keeps you the parent informed about the sort of learning your child is doing in school and what you can do to help at home.

What home learning will my child be given?

At Whitehall Park we feel that the best outcomes for children are when they are able to take control over their own learning, therefore we have chosen to use project-based tasks as home learning. The project will link closely with the topic your child is learning to embed their understanding of it. We expect that over a half-term children will research an aspect of their topic to present at the end of the half term. This may be in the form of a book, an A3 project board, a PowerPoint, a piece of art work – it is entirely up to your child how they would like to present it. Each week the teachers will ask the children to share something they have done towards their project which may require them to use a skill they have been using in class.

From Year 1 your child will also get mental maths and spellings home learning to complete.

When will my child be given home learning?

Every Friday, your child will be given some home learning to complete. Home learning will be given out on Friday and will need to be returned on Wednesday. This is to help working parents who may find it difficult to find time during the week to help their child. However reading home learning should be carried out on a daily basis by children throughout the school and children should bring their book bags to school every day.

Your child's project will be due on the last Wednesday of the half term so all children are able to show their learning before the holidays.

How long should my child spend doing their home learning each evening?

Your child works very hard in school and we also appreciate that many children have after school commitments, however we strongly recommend that reading should be a daily activity. Other pieces of home learning are set in accordance with your child's age, ability and specific learning need. Your child's teacher will be able to determine what is appropriate for your child.

How will I know how to help my child?

Home learning can be discussed during parent consultations and during curriculum events. Home learning is mostly self-explanatory; teachers will include an example where appropriate. All home learning will be explained to your child before they bring it home so that they know what they have to do. You can help your child by arranging if possible for your child to have somewhere quiet (away from the television!) where they can do their home learning.

Please do not do the child's home learning for him/her!

How can I help my child when I don't know how to speak, read or write English?

Your child's teacher will always understand if this is a problem. In the past many parents have successfully arranged for an older brother, sister, cousin, uncle or other relative to help. Please tell your child's class teacher if this is not possible in your case.

What if my child cannot do the home learning? This should not happen as new learning is never sent home. If however your child does appear to be struggling at any time please do not become cross or irritated with your child but talk to their class teacher who will be happy to help.

What if my child does not want to do the home learning?

When home learning is set it is compulsory for all children. Home learning is a key part of your child's learning journey and reinforces and builds upon everything we do here at school. If your child is refusing to do the home learning please talk to their class teacher who will be happy to discuss the problem with you and your child.

What if my child is ill or we are just too busy to do the home learning?

Your child's teacher will always understand when there are occasional reasons for the home learning not being completed. Please remember to see your child's teacher to explain so that your child does not suffer any embarrassment.

EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Home Learning Guidelines

What home learning will my child be given?

It is very important that your child reads regularly at home to practise what they have learnt at school. Your child's book bag should be brought in every day so that the books can be changed. Your child may also bring home other stories which they will not yet be able to read by themselves. These are intended for you or another family member to read to your child. Occasionally your child may be sent home with words which they are learning to read or spell. Your child will also do the project-based home learning as outlined above.

How long should my child spend reading each night?

Ideally your child should spend 15 minutes reading each night.

What can I do to help?

- Attend the parent meetings where the class teacher will tell you how to help your child.
- Sit with your child when they are reading to you.
- Try to find somewhere quiet to read together.
- Encourage your child to point at the words as they read.
- Praise your child for working out any words and ask them to read the sentence again.
- If your child is unable to work out any words please do not get cross but tell them the word and ask them to re-read the sentence.
- Talk about the story with your child by asking them questions about what happened in the story.
- When you have read with your child please sign the reading diary and if you wish write a comment. You could write about how well they read/the words they worked out/what your child said when you talked about the story and how well they understood what they read.
- Attend our parental workshops for 'Helping your child to read at home'.

Home Learning Guidelines

How long should my child spend on their home learning each night?

Your child should spend 20 minutes a night (15 minutes reading, 5 minutes spelling and practising mental maths) but if your child is tired do not worry if you miss the occasional night.

Your child should spend at least 20 minutes each night on their home learning if they are in Year 3 or 4; building up to at least 30 minutes a night in Years 5 and 6.

What home learning will my child be given?

Your child will be expected to do the project based home learning as described above. They will also receive a school book to read, mental maths and spellings to practise.

READING

Although it is likely your child may be able to or may have started to learn to read by the time they arrive in Year 1, it is vital that they continue to read regularly at home so that they become

really fluent readers. Your child should bring their book bag to school every day so that they can change their books and read daily.

What can I do to help with reading?

- Sit with your child when they are reading to you.
- Try to find somewhere quiet to read together.
- Encourage your child to point at the words as they read.
- Encourage your child to break up longer more difficult words into manageable chunks.
- Praise your child for working out any words and ask them to read the sentence again.
- If your child is unable to work out any words please do not get cross but tell them the word and ask them to reread the sentence.
- Talk about the story with your child by asking questions about what they have read
- When you have read with your child please sign the reading diary and if you wish write a comment. You could write about how well they read/the words they worked out/what your child said when you talked about the story.

How can I help my child with their home learning?

- Attend the parent meetings where the class teacher will tell you how to help your child.
- If possible give your child somewhere quiet to work. • Sit with your child but don't do it for them
- Praise your child for all they get right. Do not get cross if they get things wrong but instead help them to correct their mistakes.
- Encourage your child to do what they can in their heads but do not worry if they can't. Instead encourage them to use their fingers or count objects around the home (chick peas, buttons, pencils, beads, counters and cubes).

Key Principles

For Staff:

- Home learning activities should be planned in advance, as part of the topic, to consolidate and extend learning in class.
- Activities should be clearly explained; children and parents are clear where they need to go for support if needed.
- Expectations of presentation and quality are the same for home activities as they are for school work.

For Parents:

- A place for completing activities should be provided, without distractions.
- Encourage and support your child. Show an interest in what they are learning.
- Support the school by explaining to children that home learning is important and aids learning.

For Pupils:

- Make the most of all the learning opportunities you are presented with.
- Tackle tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.

- Take pride in presentation and content.
- Take responsibility for handing in completed work and making sure you have all the necessary equipment.