



Home Learning Policy

Approved by Governors

Written

September 2023

To be reviewed

September 2025 (or as school policy changes)



Whitefield Infant School and Nursery Home Learning Policy



Parents, carers and families have a vital role to play in helping their children and young people achieve their full potential - at school, college or university, in work and in life as a whole. Parents' aspirations, what they do with their children at home, and how they support their child's learning and development before and during school or college have a real impact on how well their children succeed. Department for Education

This policy is based on Government guidelines which emphasise the importance of home learning and how it supports your child's learning.

The guidelines also state how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on home learning. Whilst most parents do appreciate the value and importance of home learning, a few feel that we do not set enough and others feel that there is too much! The amount and type of home learning we set is at a level which most people feel is reasonable and is in line with Department for Education guidelines.

What is Home Learning?

Home Learning is any learning or activities which pupils do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Why do we set Home Learning?

We believe that home learning enables each child to:

- actively involve their parents or other carers in their learning
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- extend school learning
- take advantage of learning resources which may be available at home

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- ensure the needs of each individual pupil are taken into account
- ensure parents/carers understand clearly what is expected from them and their child
- extend and support each child's learning experience
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences

The type and amount of Home Learning

On average the children will be expected to spend about one hour a week on home learning. In addition to this the Government recommends that all children spend between 10 - 20 minutes reading each day.

Why is home learning important?

- It raises your child's achievement
- It consolidates and extends learning
- It helps to inform you about your child's school work and gives you the opportunity to support this work
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment

What sort of activities should my child be doing?

Every week, children in KS1 will be given;

- daily reading books
- weekly maths home learning (linked to new concepts learnt that week)
- weekly phonics/ English home learning (to consolidate weekly sounds/ skills)
- a poetry book (a poem or rhyme to learn that the whole class will perform during the half term)

Every week, children in EYFS will be given;

- daily reading books
- phonics/maths challenge

The Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers can best support the child's learning by

- providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which the child can do their home learning
- making it clear to the child that they value home learning and support the school in explaining how home learning can help their learning in school
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed home learning
- support children with the application of learnt spellings

Should I help my child with home learning?

Home learning allows you to see what your child is learning at school and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much!

If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to strike a good balance!

Children with Special Educational Needs

We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

Arrangements for Monitoring and Evaluating Policies

The Headteacher will monitor this policy on a regular basis by looking at a sample of home learning from each class. The criterion for success will be:

- each year group following the home learning pattern set out in the policy
- classes within a year group setting the same home learning
- children on the Special Needs register are being given a balance of learning which enables them to perform alongside their peers but also includes "catch up" work
- parents and carers understand what is expected from them and their child
- the parents' comments slip is proving a worthwhile tool of communication without putting undue pressure on teachers

How can I help my child?

10 things you can do to help your child learn

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
 - You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.
 - Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
 - Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.
4. Make use of your local library.
 - Look out for special events and services for children.
5. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.
 - Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.
6. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the home learning activity.
7. Try to set time aside to support your child's home learning activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
8. Encourage your child to discuss home learning with you, including feedback from teachers.
9. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of home learning.
10. Remind your children to complete and hand in home learning on time.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your child to succeed!