

WHITEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Home Learning Policy



Adopted: February 2014

Review date: February 2016

WHITEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Home Learning Policy

Mission Statement

Our school is a place where everyone is treated equally, encouraged and respected. We believe that all children should be able to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. We are committed to our school being a safe and inclusion place where learning is nurtured and encouraged in a happy, caring and fun environment. We all work for our school to be a happy place where good behaviour is expected and all children enjoy their educational journey.

At Whitefield we believe in nothing but the best!

Whitefield Primary School Home Learning Policy

- We regard Homework as anything outside of the school day which contributes to children's learning and development in partnership with parents and carers.
- Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn wherever they are!
- We see homework as a very important way of maintaining good communication between home and school.
- One of our aims is for children to become independent learners and we see homework as one of the ways to help children achieve this.
- While homework is important we also acknowledge and value strongly the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

- Children spend more of their time at home than at school and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside school.
- We believe that the most important activities particularly with young children are talking and reading every day.
- We believe that homework should be an extension of work in school and support the continuation of learning. Therefore, we aim to provide interesting and engaging activities which children enjoy completing at home.
- This policy is based on government guidelines which emphasise the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn. While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few may feel that we do not set enough homework and others feel that there may be too much!
- The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which we feel is reasonable and appropriate to the age and ability of our children.

Why is homework important?

- It helps your child to make progress
- It consolidates and extends the work they have done in school
- It helps to inform you about your children's school work and allows 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 children be doing?

Our homework activities are related to the work your children are doing at school but will not always be written work. For young children it will usually be:

- Reading with parents or carers
- Games or activities to practice literacy, maths or other skills

For older children, homework may also include:

- Reading
- Preparing a presentation to the class
- Finding out information
- Designing or making something
- Trying out a simple scientific experiment
- Solving problems
- Completing literacy, maths or other work

What homework should my child be doing?

In Foundation stage:-

- A list of key sounds to learn each week
- A list of key words to learn each week
- Home reading books for children who are ready

In Key Stage One:

- Home reading books (changed twice per week)
- Spellings once per week
- One piece of maths homework related to learning in class
- One piece of literacy or learning challenge work when required

In Key Stage 2:

- Home reading books (changed as required)
- One piece of maths homework related to learning in class
- One piece of literacy homework related to learning in class
- Learning challenge homework when required

Feedback on your child's homework

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better.

Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the problem with us yourself.

Should I help my child with homework?

Homework allows you to see what your children are doing 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 get the balance right.

12 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. Talk to and read to, and with, your child as much as possible. *This is so important! You can make an enormous difference to your child's progress by talking to them and by reading with them every day.*

- 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. *Liverpool is full of interesting and fun places to visit like the Albert Dock, Tate Gallery, the Museum and the Walker Art Gallery.*
- 6.** If your child likes watching television, watch it together and talk about what has been watching. A child will not learn as much by simply watching TV alone. *Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.*
- 7.** 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 homework activity.
- 8.** Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
- 9.** Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
- 10.** Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.
- 11.** Help your child to see the importance of homework and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.
- 12.** Remind your children to complete and hand in homework on time. A copy of your child's homework programme will be provided at the start of each year but please ask if you need another one.

Please return this slip to school.



I agree with and support the Home Learning policy of Whitefield Primary School

Name of parent

Name of child

Signed by parent

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We take a flexible approach and we will do our best for each individual child.

We want your children to succeed! We believe strongly in “Nothing but the Best” for every child.