



HOME LEARNING POLICY

POLICY FIRST ADOPTED & RATIFIED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY	May 2016
POLICY LAST REVIEWED & REVISED	July 2022
POLICY TO BE NEXT REVIEWED OR EARLIER IF REQUIRED	Spring 2024

Name: Date: 28/9/22

Chair of Harlowbury Local Governing Body

From the outset, we would like to stress that we know that parents hold a wide range of views about "homework" and that it will be impossible to please all of you. Some of you would like your children to have no homework at all and others would like much more and more formal tasks. So there has to be a degree of compromise from everyone, including teachers who have to plan and assess "homework", in order to proceed in a manageable way.

The value of home learning

"Children need to know that what they do has consequences. At secondary school, if a pupil doesn't complete their homework, they risk falling behind. They may also hold up others - clearly it is harder for the teacher to keep the whole class moving forward if some are doing the homework and others aren't." DFE information on why schools provide homework and home learning.

"At primary school, too, we all want our children to develop their knowledge - but we also want them to develop values. Homework set should not take too much time to complete each week. But if a child is asked to do it and they don't, for that to have no consequence would not be a positive lesson." DFE information on why schools provide homework and home learning.

So children at Harlowbury will be asked to complete essential learning tasks in school or attend homework club.

The most important aspect of the home learning at primary school level is the feedback and next steps in learning not the setting or completion of the tasks; however the effectiveness of home learning is enhanced by providing children choices for tasks, which will result in higher motivational and performance outcomes, self-regulation and intrinsic motivation. Teachers will focus on effort and craftsmanship for home learning.

The setting of home learning needs to take into consideration the need for children to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport and recreation and cultural pursuits where appropriate. So our policy aims to:

- Give parents and carers a greater understanding about the curriculum and the skills and context taught in school
- Provides an element of choice in tasks
- Revisit previous learning and support children remembering more
- Practise of essential knowledge such as phonics and times tables to enable fluency
- Be manageable and enable children to have a balanced lifestyle.

Bespoke Learning

On occasion some children will bring home a task such as Lexia or Nessy which is designed to meet their individual needs and support them with learning core knowledge. Please ask your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Reading

We want our children to enjoy reading and develop a real love of books, and this requires considerable adult support, particularly in the early stages. In addition to the reading activities undertaken in school, parents have a vital role to play in reading to and/or listening to children read, as well as discussing books. It is key children have time to read and share stories on a daily basis even for 10 minutes.

In Reception and Year 1, your child will take part in daily Read Write Inc. sessions which is an intensive reading and phonic based programme to ensure all children are able to decode books fluently by the age of 6.

For some individual children who have gaps in their knowledge of reading and phonics they may also have daily RWI lessons and additional RWI tasks to complete at home to close any learning gaps swiftly.

Mathematics

Children from Year 1 onwards will be given a weekly mathematics task or game. The tasks may be applying skills; problem solving or games. In addition to this, it is essential that children learn number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 (+ and - facts), and have a rapid recall of times tables facts.

The home work for maths may be set on Purple Mash or TT Rockstars both online programmes support children's fluency in number facts.

Online Learning

Purple Mash all pupils have a login to Purple Mash, that you can use for learning at home. There are games and activities to explore and consolidate learning from the classroom and your child may have a 2do set by the teacher to complete over the week.

TT Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practise, each child has their own log in and can practise their times tables and improve their recall speed.

Topic Learning

Half Termly to fit in with the class topics you will have a menu of tasks to pick from, research and complete in a given time frame. Children are asked to share their home learning and examples showing pride, effort and craftsmanship are celebrated and displayed.

Role of parents - additional activities

The role of parents is to support their children to learn and develop interests both in school and in the home. As stated earlier, encouraging children to read and develop a love of books is very important, so spending time on this and ensuring that children read regularly will reap huge benefits. It is important that children have a quiet space to complete their home learning and that they are encouraged to do it *independently*.

If parents experience trouble with getting their children to complete their learning, they should contact the class teacher. While the school will set a certain amount of home learning there are many other things that parents can do independently to help their children learn. We have listed a few activities which might seem obvious but are definitely worthwhile:-

- Joining a library
- Cooking
- Shopping - letting children handle small amounts of money
- Writing lists - shopping, what to pack in a suitcase, plan a party - using a chalk board and chalks is good for younger children fine motor skills
- Playing word and number games as well as board games such as Boggle, Scrabble and Chess.
- Learning nursery rhymes and singing counting songs
- Noticing numbers on the bus, in the street, etc
- I Spy
- Visiting places of interest - museums, galleries
- Making models, painting, threading beads
- Using construction kits
- Laying the table and counting cutlery, etc

Holiday Learning Projects

We have written a list of **100 Things to do before you leave Harlowbury**. The activities are a mixture of outdoor and indoor activities and visits that you can try as a family.

For a child who completes (and can evidence) 90-100 of the activities and tasks they will be given a gold award

For a child who completes (and can evidence) 70-89 of the activities and tasks they will be given a silver award

For a child who completes (and can evidence) 50-69 of the activities and tasks they will be given a bronze award