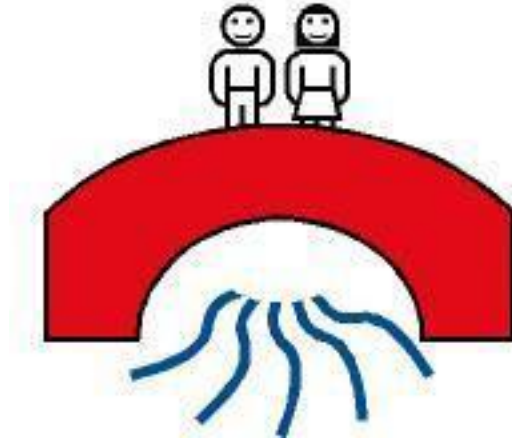


Loddon Primary School



Policy for Home Learning

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Introduction

We define Home Learning as anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning either in response to guidance from the school (**homework**) or through a child's own interests and efforts.

Home Learning can encompass a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers, parents/carers or pupils to support children's learning. It is often done with the support of an adult at home and can therefore provide a valuable opportunity for adults, other than teaching staff, to become active partners in a child's education.

Rationale for Home Learning

Home Learning in its broadest sense has the potential to be a very important part of a child's education and to add much to a child's development. We recognise that children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parent/carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school.

While set homework can make a positive contribution to raising a child's level of attainment we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Formal homework set by school is important, but it should not prevent children from full participation in family life, nor from involvement in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives and learning of many children.

Our school policy aims to strike a balance between the importance of school setting some formal homework and the preservation of sufficient family time, during the school week, for parents/carers to create their own learning opportunities and social experiences on behalf of their children.

This school policy represents a starting point only for home learning. Resources to support a wider range of voluntary home learning activities can be accessed via our Learning Platform and information on additional opportunities, outside our school, including the 11+ entrance exams can be requested from our Parent Support Advisor.

Purposes of home learning

The aims and objectives of homework tasks set at Loddon Primary school are as follows:

- To consolidate and reinforce learning and to allow children further opportunity to practise skills taught in lessons.
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.
- To support pupils in developing the skills of independent learning and responsibility.
- To prepare for learning activities to come in class lessons.

Roles and Responsibilities

School

- The governing body will agree and then monitor the school Home Learning Policy.

- Will ensure that the school Home Learning Policy is followed consistently.
- Will provide a 'Home Learning club' for pupils to complete formal homework activities with the support of a member of school staff and access to computers and other school resources.

Class teachers

- Will set regular homework in line with the school's policy.
- Will ensure that the purpose and expectations for homework are clearly communicated to both pupils and their parents/carers via the home learning diary or reading record.
- Make it clear to pupils what response will be given to specific homework assignments at the time of setting such activities.
- Will provide prompt feedback to pupils on homework handed in.
- Will support pupils to keep the agreed home learning diary or reading record up to date.

Pupils

- Ensure that homework activities are completed and handed in on time.
- Put as much care into the work they complete at home as they would an activity completed in the classroom.
- Ask for help if unclear of the expectations of a homework assignment.
- Respond to feedback given by the teacher.
- Look after their reading record or home learning diary.

Parent/Carers

- Make time to support their child with home learning activities including reading.
- Make arrangements for a suitable learning environment for the completion of home work activities.
- Keep the school informed (via the class teacher in the first instance) of any factors that may affect a child's ability to learn or complete homework activities.
- Keep the agreed reading record or home learning diary up to date.

Communication of Home Learning

Each child in school will be given a reading record/home learning diary. The content of these diaries will vary depending on the age of the child but the principles remain the same throughout the school.

The reading record/home learning diary is intended as both a record of completed home learning tasks and a communication point between school and parent/carers. Additional information is contained within the diaries outlining specific home learning expectations for the age group in question and also additional guidance to parents.

As a record of work completed as well as a communication book the home learning diary is an important resource and we ask that parents/carers support their children in the organisation of this book and its safe return to school each and every day.

1. Amount of Home Learning to expect in an average week:

Foundation Stage Up to 50 minutes a week. (FS2)	Lower School (Year 1 - 2) 1 hour a week.	Middle School (Year 3 - 4) At least 1 hour and 15 minutes a week.	Upper School (Year 5 - 6) At least 1 hour and 30 minutes a week.
<p>Reading - Sharing books 'little and often' to develop essential early reading skills.</p> <p>Letters and Sounds - phonics and handwriting practice as indicated by teachers.</p> <p>Values - Once a month a piece of learning based on our school values.</p>	<p>Reading - At least 3 times a week with an adult or when ready independently.</p> <p>A weekly Maths OR Phonics task.</p> <p>Values - Once a month a piece of learning based on our school values.</p>	<p>Reading - 5 times a week independently/at least once with an adult</p> <p>Literacy - A handwriting/spelling or grammar task.</p> <p>Maths - A Maths application task OR number facts reinforcement work (e.g. times tables.)</p> <p>Values - Once a month a piece of learning based on our school values.</p>	<p>Reading - 5 times a week, either independently or with an adult</p> <p>Literacy - A handwriting/spelling task AND either grammar reinforcement work OR reading comprehension work</p> <p>Maths - A Maths application task OR number facts reinforcement work (e.g. times tables, prime numbers, square numbers, decimals etc.)</p> <p>Values - Once a month a piece of learning based on our school values.</p>

Expectations for pupils with special educational needs

We set homework tasks 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. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we will also refer to their Individual SEND Profile.