



Home learning policy. St Catherine's C of E Primary School

January 2025

Reviewed & agreed by all teaching staff

Reviewed/agreed by leadership team every other year

Catherine's is a nurturing community where differences are celebrated, and caring, happy children flourish. Children embrace their learning and develop skills of wisdom and resilience, enabling them to live life in all its fullness.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

What is Home Learning?

There is a national expectation that schools set regular homework for pupils, in order to support their learning in school. At St Catherine's we endeavour to ensure that learning set for home is entirely appropriate.

There are clear benefits for children who spend regular periods of time on different learning activities outside of school. In line with our school vision, we feel home learning should develop the children's range of learning styles helping them grow skills of wisdom and resilience and ultimately live life in all its fullness. Home learning is an important way of establishing routines and perseverance; it helps build a successful dialogue between teachers and parents, and also involves parents in the education of their child(ren).

Home learning should:

- consolidate and extend learning and skills undertaken in the school environment
- support parent understanding of age-related expectations
- increase pupils' self esteem
- encourage perseverance
- encourage parents to feel an important partner in their child's learning
- develop pupil independence and responsibility for their own learning

Pupils will also receive targeted maths and English tasks.

There will be support in school (at lunchtimes) for those pupils who are unable to complete home learning at home.

Reading

All children have a reading record book for parents and teachers to make comments in. Parents are asked to support their child by listening to them read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction reading

materials. It is important to discuss the plot and characterisation and ask the child questions about what is being read so that he/she can demonstrate and verbalise good- understanding. Encourage children at home to re-read passages in order to develop fluency and expression. Children also benefit from hearing adults read stories to them and sharing a passion for books.

Spellings and Phonics

In Key Stage 1 children have daily phonics and spellings lessons, according to the phase they are working at. Children will receive weekly phonics to practise at home in order to consolidate reading and spelling.

In Key Stage 2 pupils have regular spelling lessons; it is not felt that sending spellings home to learn (for example in list format) is particularly effective, however the statutory spelling lists are on the school website in order to inform parents of national expectations.

Foundation Stage

On occasions, Foundation Stage may send activities home for children. The on-line assessment and home/school link 'Tapestry' will include next steps for pupils with which parents can support at home. Activities will be practical and creative, promoting parent/carer and child conversation. They will be planned to support or introduce the learning that is taking place in school. Additionally, children are expected to read at home each day and/or complete phonics activities where appropriate.

Key Stage 1

Year 1 will be introduced to Home Learning folders from September, where they are set two short tasks. When appropriate there will be opportunities for home learning to be completed via Seesaw. Year 2 pupils will be set weekly home learning tasks on Seesaw, unless families request paper copies. The home learning tasks will cover a range of topics.

Key Stage 2

KS2 pupils are expected to read regularly with an adult and will receive home learning tasks weekly, covering a range of topics/subjects. These activities will be set on Seesaw, unless families request paper copies.

Children are encouraged to take pride in their home learning and to ensure they know their work is valued.

The role of the parent/carer is to:

- support and encourage their child by giving time and an environment in which home learning can be successfully completed;
- encourage the children to develop a sense of responsibility and ensure their child hands in their work on time;
- encourage children to complete work independently, and then help edit and check .