

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Definition

One of the purposes of schooling is to enable pupils to learn independently of the school. At Bledlow Ridge School, home learning may be any activity set to extend class studies, in line with the objectives of the school curriculum. Some home learning requires support from parents and carers, but as children progress through the school more independent study is expected of them. At Bledlow Ridge School regular home learning is expected of all pupils at all stages of their school life.

Aims

- to reinforce and extend work done in school by allowing practice, where it is needed, of skills learnt in the classroom
- to forge and strengthen the home/school partnership and involve parents in children's learning
- to encourage pupils to develop self-discipline, perseverance and the practice of independent study
- to open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom

Implementation

Children in the Reception Class are expected to share a book together with a parent/carer for 5 minutes daily. At Key Stage 1 pupils should read for information and pleasure every evening for at least ten minutes with an adult and at Key Stage 2 for twenty minutes. Books will predominantly be taken from the Individualised Reading Scheme supplemented by school library books. Children should feel confident and competent to read both fact and fiction from a wide range of sources including books, newspapers, journals, CD Rom, the internet and any other written source. All pupils should be encouraged to become active members of their local public library. Reception pupils take a 'Sounds and Words' book home weekly to support their reading and spelling.

Formal spelling homework usually starts in Class 1. All pupils are then tested weekly. Pupils in Classes 2, 3 & 4 are encouraged to practise their multiplication tables at home and are tested regularly in school.

Further assignments can include finishing work started in class and individual exercises to reinforce and extend classroom learning. This includes research on the areas being covered in Science, History and Geography, and practical tasks and investigations linked to Maths, Science Design Technology, and Art and Design.

From the Early Years Foundation Stage onwards parents are asked to take an active role in overseeing home learning and in ensuring an appropriate quiet place to accommodate this. In Years R, 1 and 2 regular use of the home/school reading record provides a vital communication link between parents and school. In Classes 3 and 4 homework is discussed in lessons and pupils are expected to listen to instructions and then complete the tasks in the given time according to the set timetable. On days where home learning is set it is expected that a task should take no more than 30 minutes per night in Classes 1 and 2. In Classes 3 and 4 pupils will be expected to spend 20 minutes per night reading and 40 minutes on other home learning tasks.