

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Introduction

1. Home learning is defined as activities which pupils are asked to complete outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents (the term 'parents' includes carers). At Perran-ar-Worthal School, we believe that appropriately set home learning tasks can play a valuable part in a child's education. Through this policy, we aim to ensure our school provides a consistent approach that is appropriate to the age and ability of every child. We greatly value the support of parents in helping their children complete tasks on time and to a good standard. For our policy to be implemented successfully, parental support is crucial.

Purpose and principles

2. Home learning helps to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths. It helps to develop an effective partnership and stronger lines of communication between parents and the school. It enables parents to develop a greater understanding of the child's learning needs and curriculum content and provides the child with a support network that will help them to achieve better and become more confident as learners. Home learning also provides parents with additional information about their child's progress

3. The key principles informing this policy are as follows:

- Parents and carers will be treated as partners in their child's learning
- Home learning should be appropriate to the age and ability of every child so that it can be achieved by all
- Tasks will be carefully designed to reinforce the learning that has taken place in school or help to prepare the children for school tasks ahead
- Children and parents should be clear about the tasks required of them
- Children will receive feedback on their completed work
- A regular programme will make it clear to children and parents what is expected each week
- Support and guidance will be offered to parents who may struggle to support their child with home learning activities.

Expectations

4. At Perran-ar-Worthal, it is expected that all home learning tasks set will be completed on time and to a good standard. Each class teacher will set home learning on a set day each week and will expect home learning to be completed and returned within the timescale set.

5. Each task should not exceed an appropriate amount of time for the age of the pupil. If a child is experiencing any difficulty completing their home learning, it is important that the parents inform the class teacher as soon as possible so that support can be offered to ensure the child does not worry unnecessarily.

Early Years

6. Our Early Years pupils are issued with reading books and reading records at a stage when the teacher feels each child is ready. We encourage parents to spend a little time each night sharing these books with their children to help develop their recognition of high frequency words that will enhance their reading fluency. We encourage the children as early as possible to adopt a routine of bringing their reading book and reading record into school each day, even if they have not been heard reading at home.

7. Reading **to** a child each night and talking about books is still a very important part of a child's development. Day-to-day tasks that can involve counting, measuring, learning more about the world around them, etc. are also ways in which we encourage parents to support their child's early learning.

8. Teachers will inform parents of the topics that will be studied in their child's class throughout the term. This information can be used by parents to further develop their child's learning at home through family outings that may be related to their child's learning in school, e.g. visits to the museum, garden centre, local library, travelling experiences on trains or buses, etc.

Key Stage 1

9. In Key Stage 1, pupils are encouraged to continue to read every night with a parent, use their spelling journal to practice the spelling rule that has been learnt during the week. Spelling journals are available on the website. Pupils are also asked to complete a Maths and English task each week that is appropriate to their age and ability.

10. From Year 1, every child is issued with their own home learning wallet, which is used to record the learning tasks done at home. Reading records should be brought in each day, even if a child has not been heard read at home.

Key Stage 2

11. In Key Stage 2, we continue to encourage pupils to read to a parent each night and bring their reading books and reading records to school every day. Pupils in Key Stage 2 are also encouraged to practice learning their multiplication tables at home, which they are regularly given the opportunity to be tested on in school. Pupils are also expected to use their spelling journal to practice the spelling rule that has been learnt during the week. Spelling journals are available on the website.

12. Each pupil in years 3, 4 and 5 will be issued with a home learning wallet that will contain one Maths and one completed English task each week. In most cases, each pupil in year 6 will receive their homework in their class English and maths book.

13. Home learning tasks are differentiated appropriately. In some cases, the teacher may include extension tasks giving all pupils the opportunity to choose how far they wish to challenge themselves. **Please note: As pupils move further up the school, the length of time spent on each task will gradually increase, but should not exceed what is appropriate for their age.**

14. Below is a table that gives some guidance on how much time our school feels is appropriate to spend on a home learning task for different year groups. We adopt the principle that if a home learning task is taking much longer than the guidance given and is causing the child distress, the child should not be expected to complete the task but to share their concerns with their teacher back in school where they should seek additional support or receive an alternative level of work the following week. The times given indicate the maximum amount of time a task should take as some task will take less time to complete.

15. Home learning tasks for KS1 pupils will be set on a Thursday to be completed and returned to school by the following Wednesday. Home learning tasks for KS2 pupils will be set on a Wednesday to be completed and returned to school by the following Monday.

Guidance on appropriate amount of time spent on home learning.	
Early Years	5-10 minutes sharing a book each night Ongoing family time learning experiences (this family time learning is something that all year groups should benefit from)
Year 1	5-10 minutes sharing a book each night 1 x 10-15 minute spelling rule practice(refer to spelling journal) 1 x 10-15 minute Maths task each week 1 x 10-15 minute English/Topic task each week
Year 2	5-10 minutes sharing a book each night 1 x 10-15 minute spelling rule practice(refer to spelling journal) 1 x 15-20 minute Maths task each week 1 x 15-20 minute-English/Topic task each week
Year 3	10 minutes reading to an adult each night 1 x 10-15 minute spelling rule practice(refer to spelling journal) 1 x 20 minute Maths task each week 1 x 20 minute English/Topic based task each week
Year 4	10-15 minutes reading to an adult each night 1 x 10-15 minute spelling rule practice(refer to spelling journal) 1 x 20-25 minute Maths task each week 1 x 20-25 minute English/Topic based task each week
Year 5	10-15 minutes reading to an adult each night 1 x 10-15 minute spelling rule practice(refer to spelling journal) 1 x 25-30 minute Maths task each week 1 x 25-30 minute English/Topic based task each week
Year 6	10-15 minutes reading to an adult each night 1 x 10-15 minute spelling rule practice(refer to spelling journal) 1 x 30-35 minute Maths task each week 1 x 30-35 minute English/Topic based task each week

	The level of home learning for Year 6 will increase slightly throughout the course of the year to provide additional guidance for pupils to help them prepare for their final end of Key Stage 2 assessments. Following the end of the KS2 assessment period, Year 6 will be set an ongoing topic based home learning task.
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Home Learning Challenges

16. In addition to the weekly Maths and English focused home learning tasks, class teachers will issue their class with a grid of free choice homework activities where we ask for a minimum of 3 tasks to be completed within a term. These creative activities (which will be the same for all pupils across the school) will also cover a range of life skills tasks. We believe that the free choice element of this home learning will give pupils the opportunity to work on a task that holds a particular interest for them and for which they would like to develop further and share their knowledge and experience with their class.

Special educational needs

17. Whilst it is important that children with special educational needs do as much as possible in common with their peers, there will be occasions when it is more appropriate for a child to do tasks which help to address their individual needs. Wherever possible, these should be linked to their Individual Education Plans and should give plenty of opportunity for pupils to succeed.

The role of parents

18. As a child moves through the school, the level of home learning they will receive will change, which, in turn, will result in a change to the role of the parent. At Perran-ar-Worthal School, it is our hope that parents will:

- Support their child and the school by ensuring their child completes their home learning task on time and to a good standard
- Become actively involved in their child's learning through developing their role as a partner with the school
- Keep the school informed of any worries their child may be experiencing when doing their home learning tasks.

Home school agreement

19. As part of Perran-ar-Worthal School's Home School Agreement, we ask parents and pupils to recognise the need for their support for the school's homework expectations. A copy of this agreement can be found on our school's website.