



# Home Learning Policy

## Statement of Intent

At Pentland Field School we recognise that home learning can be a valuable part of the school curriculum and is often an important means to raise a pupil's self-esteem, as well as supporting work done in the classroom. However, it is not thought appropriate to overload pupils with a very rigid and strict policy as this can be counterproductive.

## Why do we ask for home learning tasks to be completed?

- To provide regular opportunities for families to learn together
- To give families an insight into the kinds of activities that the children do at school
- To reinforce an activity / skill / concept already practised or learnt at school.
- To develop the child's personal responsibility for his or her learning

## Frequency and content

The school believes it is reasonable to expect that all children have literacy and numeracy homework each week. The school recognises that home learning tasks may take many forms and may include reading, written work, observations, research and practice of other skills as appropriate.

The school considers that reading regularly or the partaking of a literacy based activity is an essential part of building literacy skills.

The expectation of reading regularly will differ between each pupil, but at least three times a week for five minutes should be encouraged.

## Non-core subjects

In foundation and other non-core subjects home learning tasks and activities may be set at the discretion of the teacher or upon request from the child or parents, as long as the level and frequency of the work does not place an unrealistic burden on the pupil.

The school recognises that there will be occasions when more than one piece of homework will need to be set for a class in a particular subject.

Each class teacher will be responsible for monitoring their pupils' home learning activities. The class teacher will be responsible for liaison with parents on matters relating to home learning.

In addition, class teachers may also set home learning tasks that asks children to:

- Bring in an object from home, e.g. a family photo, a favourite toy
- Collect items for a making activity in school, e.g. yoghurt pots, cardboard boxes
- Cut out pictures or text from magazines or newspapers, to support topic work
- Play a game, e.g. card game, board game
- Complete a literacy, maths or topic worksheet
- Learn spellings or multiplication tables

### **What will classroom staff do?**

#### **Where appropriate, they will:**

- Communicate to families at the start of the school year, how many home learning tasks will regularly be set in that class
- Provide or suggest books that can be read at home
- Make it clear each week what homework is set for the class and when it needs to be completed by
- Respond to any questions families or children may have about home learning tasks/activities

### **Role of Parents**

The school views the support of parents as extremely important to the effective use of home learning.

#### **Where appropriate parents are encouraged to:**

- Read or partake in a literary activity with their child at home
- Check any communication from school and ask their child what other home learning tasks has been set each week
- Encourage their child to complete the home learning task... but not to persevere if the child refuses to complete it and presents with challenging behaviours
- Let the classroom staff know how the child managed the home learning activity or task, e.g. didn't need any help / needed a little help with certain parts / struggled to do the work. This could be jotted on the work itself or via the home school communication books

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