

Home Learning Policy

At Ashton Keynes CE Primary School Home Learning is a valuable and important part of children's learning. We want Home Learning to:

- nurture a love of independent learning and encourage creative self-growth;
- be supportive to both parents and pupils;
- contribute positively to parents' and carers' understanding of the school's curriculum and core learning values and aims;
- provide structured opportunities to build upon strengths, follow-up areas of individual interest, and lead to new enquiry;
- to provide challenge
- offer a means for parents to contribute, participate in, and support their child's learning.
- provide a format for parents to actively see how their children's learning builds on prior achievement and learning experiences;
- encourage and seek to develop both self-discipline and responsibility through both independent and shared learning;
- and contribute to the raising of standards and aims to enhance individual achievement.

At our school, the term 'Home Learning' is used in preference to the term 'homework' because, for some, 'homework' can carry negative connotations. In promoting a culture where out-of-school learning is valued, nurtured and encouraged, the emphasis is firmly on 'learning'.

What does 'Home Learning' look like?

At Ashton Keynes C of E Primary, there are several parts to Home Learning. It involves regular reading, practising of number work and also spelling. In addition, Home Learning consists of theme-based learning via our AK Home learning brochures.

READING

Reading forms a key part of Home Learning. Emphasis is always placed on children developing positive attitudes towards reading and establishing good reading habits, as well as developing the confidence and skills to manage their home reading. Children are encouraged to read a range of texts: stories, information texts, newspapers, comics, internet stories and articles, etc. Reading may take the form of independent reading, reading to a family member, or, involve an adult or sibling reading to the child. We understand that it is not always possible to read every day, but it is anticipated that children read at least 4 times a week. Reading record books are issued for children to record their reading. Children are encouraged to record information about texts they read and sometimes write brief responses. Parents may respond/sign for younger children.



This might include comments about:

- their favourite part of the book/text;
- why they liked or disliked the book/text, or a book review;
- information about what they have learnt;
- comments about what might happen next – a prediction;
- comments about language features that the children might like to ‘magpie’; or
- a summary of events.

Periodically, record books will be looked through and guidance given where necessary.

NUMBER-BASED HOME LEARNING

Ongoing number work is actively encouraged. The regular practising of times-tables and corresponding division facts, the practising of number bonds to 10, 20,30, etc. are all seen as meaningful and useful activities. The school promotes home use of the AKPS multiplication booklet which incorporates the star challenge and is available on the school website in the home learning area. From year 2, an important part of mathematical Home Learning is the opportunity to practise maths through the Mathletics website. This is an online maths learning resource linked to the National Curriculum and funded by the school. Children are issued with an online password and are able to follow a maths programme of study linked to their own learning needs. Teachers are able to track progress and set appropriate mathematical activities. Weekly or fortnightly maths tasks and investigations will be issued across the school to support learning in class.

SPELLING

Key words for each year group are available on the website and support at home to learn these words and use them in sentences is strongly encouraged. To reinforce class-based learning, children can practise spellings, and related spelling patterns that are taught in weekly spelling lessons (See the Spelling Policy on the school website under ‘resources’). Spelling banks and the spelling strategies related to Spelling Groups are available on the school website. This is a useful reference point for parents. Research shows that learning spellings, by rote, for weekly testing is not beneficial for many learners.

THEMED HOME-LEARNING

At Ashton Keynes Primary School a central part of Home Learning is the opportunity for all pupils to choose a weekly home-learning activity linked to class themes (or topics). Such themes form the basis for cross-curricular work across the school. For each theme, class teachers provide a range of stimulating and cross-curricular home-learning tasks. Each week children select a task that from the star challenge that is appropriate for them. We ensure there are options to support and challenge and that the ARE (age related expectation) task is 2 star. The exact nature of the task will depend on the theme and the Key Stage in which the child is taught. Every class has a home learning brochure which clearly details the task and dates set and can be accessed from the class pages on the school website. Home learning is collected in a book and often shared in class or put onto display/ in the class big book.

Written theme-based Home Learning is regularly marked and feedback given. We understand that not all children will be able to complete weekly home-learning tasks. It is



also anticipated that many parents may well want to support and work through home-learning tasks with their child, thus giving them an opportunity to play a part in their child's school-based learning. By providing high quality home learning with a star challenge, we offer something for all.

Sometimes when a child is receiving a learning intervention e.g. speech and language or a booster group, additional focussed tasks may be sent home to support at home and help ensure progress is rapid.

Recommended amount of weekly Home Learning time for each class is given below (see figure 1):

Figure 1: Recommended Home Learning per Year Group

Year Group	Recommended Time Allocation	Content
Foundation Stage	Up to 1hr per week (5-10 minutes per day)	Reading, Phonics fan Themed Home Learning activities
Years 1 & 2	1hr per week	Reading 4 times a week Maths (e.g. number bonds) Spellings (e.g. spelling group practise) Themed Home Learning activities
Years 3 & 4	1 ½ hrs per week	Reading 4 times a week Maths (e.g. task sheet, Mathletics, times-tables, etc.) Spellings and spelling strategies Themed Home Learning activities
Year 5	1 ¾ hrs per week	Reading, at least 4 times a week Maths (e.g. task sheet, Mathletics, times-tables, etc.) Spellings and spelling strategies Themed Home Learning activities
Year 6	2hrs per week	Reading, at least 4 times a week Maths (e.g. task sheet, Mathletics, times-tables, etc.) Spellings and spelling strategies Themed Home Learning activities

FURTHER SUPPORT FOR HOME LEARNING

There are links to a number of useful online resources on the school website. These can be used to support Home Learning.

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