



South Rise

PRIMARY SCHOOL

How to support learning at home

Reviewed policy agreed by GB:	Summer 2017
Reviewed policy shared with staff:	Autumn 2017
Policy to be reviewed again:	Summer 2020

At South Rise Primary School we believe that learning at home can usefully reinforce and/or extend children's learning where it is relevant to the learning that children are doing at school.

Why do we give home learning activities?

We believe that learning at home can make a positive contribution to raising children's achievement. It supports children in seeing schoolwork as relevant to their lives outside of school.

Learning at home can help with the following:

- Make learning in school more meaningful and relevant
- Develop pupils' autonomy
- Parental support and interest
- Enrich and extend the curriculum
- Create an interest in challenging activities
- Provide opportunities to learn in different contexts
- Develop specific skills
- Consolidate skills and knowledge
- Encourage an appreciation of different perspectives

What do we mean by homework?

We use the term "home learning" in its widest sense to include any learning activity that children, individually or with their parents, undertake outside school, such as:

- reading with a parent
- a family visit to a local museum
- finishing off work from class
- going swimming
- undertaking individual research for a project at the local library
- learning number facts [tables]
- learning to ride a bike safely
- memorising a poem
- being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation

Support Groups

If a child needs extra support with English or maths, they may be included in a support group. They may be asked to complete activities at home such as a game or an activity to consolidate the support group learning.

How will parents receive information about home learning?

Each child takes home a reading book and a Home Learning Journal. This journal is used to record and acknowledge daily reading and provide a form of contact between parents/carers and teachers. It is intended to promote opportunities for sharing books with a parent or other member of the family.

Each week teachers will also provide information in the Home Learning Journal about the learning planned for that week and give suggestions of discussions or activities parents and children can engage in.

Weekly spelling and timetables will be recorded and practised in individual exercise books.

Parents are also given information in the termly newsletters and on the school website about the unit of learning and learning planned across the curriculum.

What home learning activities are set?

The amount of time given to spend on home learning is a **guideline** only.

Reception and Years 1 and 2

- 1 hour per week
- Reading is the most important activity and we suggest that it is part of a daily routine
- We ask parents to record reading at home in the Home Learning Journal
- Every week, in Year 1 and Year 2, the children will receive key spellings and times tables to learn at home linked to their learning in school. These will include English and maths activities which allow the children to apply this new learning
- Every holiday the children will be given a project to complete linked to their next unit of learning

Years 3 and 4

- 1.5 hours per week
- Reading is the most important activity, and again we suggest that it is part of a daily routine
- Reading activities will be set and based on the book that children are reading for pleasure at home and these activities can be recorded in the home learning journal
- We ask parents to encourage their child to read widely for interest and enjoyment
- Every week the children will receive key spellings and times tables to learn at home linked to their learning in school. These will include English and maths activities which allow the children to apply this new learning
- Every holiday the children will be given a project to complete linked to their next unit of learning

Years 5 and 6

- 2.5 hours per week
- Reading is the most important activity, and again we suggest that it is part of a daily routine
- Reading activities will be set and based on the book that children are reading for pleasure at home and these activities can be recorded in the home learning journal
- We ask parents to encourage their child to read widely for interest and enjoyment

- Every week the children will receive key spellings and times tables to learn at home linked to their learning in school. These will include English and maths activities which allow the children to apply this new learning
- Every holiday the children will be given a project to complete linked to their next unit of learning
- Year 6 children are given SATs revision books in the Spring term which cover maths, reading and grammar, punctuation and spelling. Children will need to complete activities from these books every week

All children in KS1 and 2 also have access to **Spelling Shed** and **Times Tables Rockstars**

What a child is asked to do at home is based on the age and ability of the child. Some activities are given to the whole class or year group and each child will be asked to complete them to the best of their ability. We are aware that children learn in different ways and we set home learning activities which enable children to record in a variety of ways. Some activities will be given individually to pupils according to their abilities. The importance of home learning is in the doing and in the discussion of their learning with those at home. Children are given verbal feedback and it is ticked to show it has been seen by an adult in school. Grading learning is therefore not appropriate as it detracts from the purpose of encouraging independent learning at home.

Other resources available from school to help you to support your child

As a school we recognise that parents often want to support their children more formally and sometimes request homework such as maths calculations or grammar exercises. This kind of home learning is widely available on the internet and exercise books can be purchased from local book shops.

We do not wish to see home learning used to put undue pressure on children and will regularly review the contribution that set activities make to children's learning.

We are always delighted when children bring in any pieces they have chosen to do at home to support their learning. We know that some children prefer to make models or a game so we encourage and celebrate a creative approach.

You may also find the following links useful when supporting your children's learning at home:

EYFS

www.crickweb.co.uk/early-years.html
www.primaryinteractive.co.uk/early.htm
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/eyfs/

KS1

www.crickweb.co.uk/ks1literacy.html
<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/literacy/index.htm>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/>
www.storynory.com/
<http://childrenspoetryarchive.org/>

www.coolmath-games.com
www.mathletics.co.uk
www.khanacademy.org
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>
www.nrich.maths.org/frontpage
www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
<http://scratch.mit.edu/>

KS2

www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html
<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/literacy/index.htm>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>
<http://childrenspoetryarchive.org/>
www.storynory.com/
www.coolmath-games.com
www.mathletics.co.uk/
www.nrich.maths.org/frontpage
www.khanacademy.org
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/
<http://codekingdoms.com/>
<http://scratch.mit.edu/>

General Interest

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/
www.bartbonte.com/factoryballs/
www.bartbonte.com/sugarsugar/
[www.bartbonte.com/full moon/](http://www.bartbonte.com/full_moon/)
www.planetsforkids.org/

Frequently Asked Questions

What standard is expected from children's learning at home activities?

We always expect children to do their best in all aspects of learning. However, only parents know how much time the family has to concentrate on an activity and how tired the child may be. As teachers we recognise the value of the effort being made.

How much help should parents give?

Only you know your child and how confident they feel completing home learning activities independently. If a child asks for help, then a parent should feel free to give as much help and support as they think is needed whilst still ensuring the child has ownership of the activity.

What is the purpose of learning at home?

The many and varied purposes of learning at home are laid out in this document. The purpose of individual activities and projects should be known to the child. For example: to learn new spellings, to explore a character's emotions, to create a different ending to a story, to build reading stamina, etc.

When do we stop? When have we done enough?

We give recommended time limits, but again children complete activities at different rates. Children may feel inspired by a particular project and spend more time on it. We ask parents to ensure that children are completing the activity set. However, we would never wish a child to become upset by home learning and if this should be the case, it is best to stop and discuss or write a note to the class teacher.

How do I find the time when my child does lots of other activities?

Home learning is best when it becomes part of the child's routine. It is most successful when children know when and where they can complete their home learning activities. At times, for varying reasons, children will need support in keeping to the routine.

Is reading included in the recommended time for children's learning at home?

Yes. Research carried out into home learning shows that reading is the most important activity to be encouraged and practiced at home. Reading at home has a direct impact on children's ability to become confident and efficient readers and learners.