



Polehampton C. of E. Schools Federation

Home Learning Policy

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Introduction

While there is currently no statutory guidance on home learning, Ofsted still recognises its importance, wanting schools to “set challenging homework, in line with the school’s policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come”.

Ofsted also note how “the school’s engagement with parents helps them to understand how children and learners are doing in relation to the standards expected and what they need to do to improve”. Home learning can be a very useful way of communicating children’s next steps in learning.

Why is homework important?

- It raises your children’s achievement
- It consolidates and extends the work they have done in school
- It helps to inform you about your children’s school work and allows and gives you the opportunity to support this work
- It provides opportunities for children to use out of school resources, found in the home or other places such as libraries
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment.
- It also encourages children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently

What sort of activities should children be doing?

- Our homework activities are related to the work your children are doing at school but will not always be written work.

For young children it will usually be:

- Reading with parents or carers
- Games or activities to practice literacy, maths or other skills

For older children, homework may also include:

- Reading
- Preparing a presentation to the class
- Finding out information
- Designing or making something
- Trying out a simple scientific experiment
- Solving problems
- Completing literacy, maths or other work

What homework should my child be doing?

This varies with different year groups - you will be informed at the beginning of each year.

Feedback on your child's homework

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with

a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the problem with us yourself.

Should I help my child with homework?

Homework allows you to see what your children are doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much! If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right.

12 things you can do to help your child learn

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
 - You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.
 - Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.
 - We would encourage parents and carers to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves every day
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc. Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.
4. Make use of your local library - look out for special events and services for children.
5. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting. Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.
6. If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about what has been watched. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.
7. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity.
8. Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
9. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
10. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.

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11. Help your child to see the importance of homework and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.
12. Remind your children to complete and hand in homework on time. A copy of your child's homework programme will be provided at the start of each year but please ask if you need another one. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your children to succeed.