

Home Learning Policy

VISION

At Holy Trinity we welcome you to an exciting world of learning, discovery and friendship. We are passionate about nurturing every child, helping them to find and develop their own talents and be the best that they possibly can. Children will learn within a Christian community, surrounded by support, kindness, respect and fun; and will leave with fantastic memories to cherish forever.

Pupils' Voice

Policy drafted by: Penny Cox

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At Holy Trinity Primary School we believe that a strong partnership between home and school is the key to children attaining their full potential in the primary years. Home learning is one way in which home-school links are developed. Through home learning parents are able to support the class teacher and become involved in their child's education and progress. Short activities of different kinds provide an important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment. Regular reading at home is vital throughout a child's education. All primary school age children should either read to their parents or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 10 to 20 minutes a day. This may be done in the context of home learning, e.g. reading a school reading book, or a reference book for a project.

Older children will be given home learning that makes a variety of demands on them, such as

- finding out information
- reading in preparation for lessons
- preparing for oral presentations
- more traditional written assignments

As far back as the 1997 OFSTED annual report they noted that *"Homework is important at all stages in a child's education.....it extends the challenge open to the pupils and ensure that teaching time is used to maximum effect"*. Research has shown that pupils achieve more highly when they spend time on learning activities at home. Tasks are carefully planned and structured to support progression in learning.

Our home learning aims:

- to allow each child to follow up work in school, whether it be sharing a story or poem or completing an individual project
- to give children the opportunity to practise work learnt at school initially
- to support and reinforce the teaching and extend the learning already taking place in the classroom
- to enable pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own
- to prepare Year 6 pupils for the quantity of homework received at Secondary School.
- to give children enough time to take part in a range of activities after school, e.g. sport, music and clubs of all kinds
- to enable children to use the range of learning resources at home
- take account of the needs of individual pupils
- to improve the quality of learning experiences offered to pupils
- to provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy the various learning experiences

Organisation of home learning

Home learning is given to all pupils from Reception through to Year 6. As the pupils move through the school, the type and quantity of home learning set and the amount of time spent on home learning increases. All written home learning is returned to school so that:

- it can be marked by the class teacher
- it can be tested or checked (e.g. spellings or multiplication tables)
- feedback can be provided through discussion
- children's understanding of different concepts can be used to inform the teacher's planning
- lengthier pieces of homework can be recognised in a Celebration of Achievement assembly

Home learning is given out on a Friday to be back in school on the Wednesday of the following week.

Time allocation

In line with recommendations set the Department for Education and Skills the content and time to be spent on homework is set out below. Sharing stories, poems, nursery rhymes and a variety of books are really good for Nursery and Reception children. If they are with you when you go shopping, use this as an opportunity for talking about numbers and patterns.

Years 1 and 2	1 hour a week	(reading, spelling and other literacy and number work)
Years 3 and 4	1½ hours a week	(literacy and numeracy + assignments in other subjects)
Years 5 and 6	30 mins. a day	(regular weekly schedule, with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy)

How parents can support their children with home learning

The following points are a guide to parents in supporting the school's policy on home learning:

- to encourage your child to complete homework and return it to school
- to help them plan their time

- to be consistent and supportive
- to help them to establish a routine
- to provide a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which your child can work
- to talk to the class teacher (or record comments in the KS2 reading diary) if the home learning is taking too long or is making the child distressed
- to make sure you check the home learning and always give positive feedback to your child
- do not let your child rush the home learning –some encouragement is usually required!
- offer help, but do not take over your child's home learning