



Redlands Community Primary School

Working Together and Aiming for Excellence

Home Learning Policy

Why do we need a written home learning policy?

At Redlands Community Primary School, we look for opportunities to provide quality home learning projects that support our creative curriculum and give scope for our pupils to make their own decisions about how to achieve the task outcomes. We encourage pupils to consider their own learning styles and begin to take ownership in how they would like their project to look. Our home learning projects will last approximately six weeks and will require children, with the support from their parents, to decide on time scales for completion of the project. We believe that parents play a very important role in the development of our pupil's skills and knowledge. Therefore, we actively encourage our parents to be involved in the home learning projects to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils.

Home learning is set by class teachers who decide how it can best support teaching and learning in the classroom. A written policy makes the purpose of home learning and the basic principles we follow in setting and marking home learning, clear to everyone involved.

Staff, governors, parents, carers and children know that the purpose of home learning is to:

- Support learning in the classroom and to raise the standards of achievement.
- Enhance the learning experience for each pupil.
- Identify and highlight pupil development and pupil needs
- Ensure that parents and carers have clear expectations about their role and that of the pupil.
- To prepare pupils for the next stage of education.
- To support our whole school improvement plan.

At Redlands Community Primary School we try to make home learning an enjoyable and positive experience. In particular our home learning policy will achieve:

- A consistent approach to setting, monitoring and marking home learning throughout the school.
- Differentiation between the needs and learning targets of pupils so that it both challenges and supports student's progression as pupils mature and become independent learners.
- Opportunities for extended reading at all ages.
- Reinforcement and consolidation of learning at all stages of development.
- Partnership for parents, carers and pupils in the learning process.
- Extra support for children with particular needs.

This policy is also available to:

- Redlands Community Primary School Governors.
- All staff (permanent, temporary, supply or otherwise)
- Parents and carers (on the website)
- Advisers/Inspectors

The policy can also be found in the master policy file.

What do we mean by home learning?

At Redlands Community Primary School we define the term 'home learning' widely, to mean any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own, at Home Learning clubs or with parents or carers. Children perform at their best when school and home work together. Home learning is an opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning. Home learning should also be enjoyable for the child involved and should stimulate imagination and creativity as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Children generally enjoy continuing their activities and sharing their experiences and ideas and bringing work started at home back into school. Home learning can cover a very wide range of activities, depending on the age of the child, but throughout the primary years a consistent emphasis will be put on reading for pleasure and purpose as part of home learning.

Why is home learning important?

At Redlands Community Primary School home learning is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school day. As such, at Redlands Community Primary School we believe home learning requires a vital commitment by teachers, pupils and parents. Teachers are required to set home learning under this policy.

Home learning is important for the primary pupil because it provides as means for pupils:

- To consolidate and reinforce what is learnt in the classroom.
- To build up basic skills (particularly reading, writing and numeracy)
- To become curious and independent learners.
- To develop good study habits
- To prepare for the next stage of education.

Home learning set at Redlands Community Primary School endeavours to fulfil these objectives. In addition, home learning is a key part of our home-school policy. It is important that every child sees that home and school are working together in partnership to provide help, support and encouragement. Home learning can help to promote a positive attitude to learning at home and provides a vital link between home and school.

Additional Educational Needs

As our home learning projects encourage children to use their own interests and preferred learning styles, pupils with additional needs will be able to complete the projects to the best of their ability.

Class teachers will also ensure that home learning set:

- Is differentiated for and appropriate to the individual needs of the child, where necessary.
- Is varied and has a range of ways of showing progress.
- Has a clear focus and manageable timetable.

How will pupils and parents know what has been achieved?

At Redlands Community Primary School our pupils, parents and staff expect and receive immediate and appropriate feedback on home learning. Ways of providing these include:

- Monitoring reading comments from parents and pupils in their reading logs.
- Verbal feedback from class teachers/teaching assistants to each pupil.
- Marking for achievement and/or effort of all home learning projects.
- Written comments on the presentation of the work produced.
- Electronic comments through our Home Learning Platform and relevant software that children use to support Maths home learning.
- Praise and recognition in class and at home learning celebration events which reward and motivate all pupils.

How parents and carers can support pupils' learning through home learning.

Parents and carers play a vital role in their children's lasting success. At Redlands Community Primary School, home learning plays a valuable part of our home-school policy as a whole. That partnership is reflected in our Home-School agreement which makes it clear that we see the support for home learning as a joint undertaking. Each child is provided with a Learning Log book which invites parents to comment upon home learning given. We aim to involve parents wherever possible in supporting their children's learning. We recommend that parents have a 'little and often' approach to home learning rather than an intensive period to complete tasks. Parents and carers can help with home learning in different ways at different stages. Most importantly, parents and carers are asked to:

- Make it clear to pupils how much they value home learning and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Praise and encourage pupils when they take pride in their home learning.
- Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions such as television, where pupils can concentrate on their home learning. If this is difficult, parents might encourage pupils to attend other places where home learning can be done, such as study clubs, study support centres, or libraries.
- Encourage pupils of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible.
- Ensure Reading Logs and Learning Log comments are filled in as appropriate.
- Attend home learning celebration events where possible.

Setting home learning for different stages.

In setting home learning we will plan to:

- Establish a consistent routine for pupils and parents.
- Reflect the age and skills of the pupils involved.

For pupils of all ages, home learning will be set systematically by class teachers and each child will keep a Learning Log containing evidence of home learning set. All tasks will be set on a **Thursday**.

Tasks will be split into two types: weekly skills and a home learning project which will last approximately six weeks. As the children transition through the school, they will be expected to organise their home learning time and decide when to complete each task in the time given.

Home learning set at Redlands Community Primary School is monitored to determine:

- That these aims are being met.
- That the full ranges of types of home learning are being set consistently.
- That projects are given appropriate feedback from class teachers.

Supporting teaching and learning through home learning.

The responsibility for seeing that home learning is completed is the parent, child and class teacher. Staff see this responsibility as an important part of their professional duties. In addition, we provide for an overview of the home learning that is set in the school. If parents do not understand a home learning task, they are more than welcome to contact the teacher for additional advice and information. Using the Home Links diaries is a good way of communicating this.

There is a designated senior member of staff responsible:

- For managing the policy.
- For ensuring that it is implemented and monitored as part of the School Improvement Plan.
- For responding to concerns of parents.

At the moment the designated member of staff is Mr. Peet

Our planning identifies that all staff share an understanding that home learning needs to be:

- Specific, differentiated and manageable for pupils at different ages and can be appropriately supported by parents and carers.
- Regularly monitored to ensure that the demands of home learning are as evenly balanced as possible.
- Clearly linked to daily progress in the classroom, in particular, in relation to literacy, numeracy and ICT.
- Regularly monitored and evaluated internally by staff.
- In addition the school recognises that the home learning policy is part of the induction process of NQTs and other staff who join the school.

Helping pupils to achieve through home learning.

At Redlands Community Primary School we ensure that pupils of all ages understand what they are expected to do at home, and why, and how it will help them to improve their work in class. A clear description of why home learning is an important aspect of their education will be provided for pupils. That description will make it clear that:

- A positive attitude towards home learning is part of helping pupils to achieve high standards.
- Home learning will be marked and monitored to high and consistent standards.
- Home learning will be returned to pupils speedily and marked in a way which they understand.
- A positive attitude towards home learning will help pupils when they reach secondary school.

The time set for home learning is less important than the quality of tasks set and the way in which they relate clearly to supporting learning in the classroom. However, each project will have a guideline of time to be spent on the project and a breakdown of how the project could be achieved over the six weeks.

Home learning tasks will be set on the same date for the whole school and deadlines and celebration afternoons will be shared with parents at the beginning of the school year. This hopes to give parents the flexibility to plan home learning around their lifestyles and extra-curricular interests. There may be additional activities set to support children who are preparing to sit statutory and optional tests or need 'catch-up' support.

Summary of allocation for home learning projects and weekly skills activities

Year Group	Home learning project	Weekly Skills
EYFS	6 Home Learning projects per year (one per half term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Daily Reading➤ Phonics flash cards➤ Maths activities➤ High Frequency Words/ Spelling
Year 1 & 2	6 Home Learning projects per year (one per half term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Daily Reading➤ MyMaths➤ Spellings/ Phonics flash cards
Year 3 & 4	6 Home Learning projects per year (one per half term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Daily Reading➤ MyMaths➤ Spellings/ Grammar activities
Year 5 & 6	6 Home Learning projects per year (one per half term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Daily Reading➤ MyMaths➤ Spellings/ Grammar activities

Sanctions

What will happen if my child is late with their home learning?

We understand that sometimes circumstances can occur that may cause a child to be late in meeting the deadline for their home learning. If this is the case, we require an explanation from the parent or carer explaining the reasoning behind missing the deadline. In this case, we will agree an extension date for the work to be completed, however the teacher is not obliged to mark the home learning when it is handed in.

If there is not an explanation as to why the home learning task is late, we will assume that the task is incomplete.

What will happen if a child does not complete a home learning task?

If the child has not completed a weekly task, we will ask for the child to miss recreation time to complete the task in school. If the child has not completed a home learning project, parents will be contacted by Mr Peet before the home learning celebration event to ensure that all children can participate in this event.

What if the home learning task does not meet our presentation policy (PROUD) or reflect the time given?

At Redlands Primary School, we encourage high expectations from our pupils at all times. On the rare occasions where work is deemed to be unreflective of the child's ability, we will ask them to complete the work again to a better standard.