



St. Anne's Church of England VA Primary School

HOME LEARNING POLICY

This policy should be taken and used as part of St Anne's Church of England School overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and **values** as a Church of England School. It is reviewed on an annual basis.

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Home learning is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Aims and Objectives

Regular, well planned home learning can:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future;
- encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance;
- help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school;
- provide opportunities for individualised work and develop skills of independent learning;
- offer access to resources not found in school (public libraries, local museums etc.);
- consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work;
- provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.

Home learning is seen as 'an essential part of good education that supports children's development as independent learners'. We believe that home learning is one way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

What is Home learning?

Home learning should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We see home learning as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- reading with an adult;
- a family visit to a local museum;

- finishing off work from the class;
- undertaking individual research for a project at the local library/ using a computer/books from home;
- learning number facts (tables/ number bonds);
- English activities both written and verbal
- being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation;
- going swimming;

Playing board games

It can be seen from this list that home learning can be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school.

What the school will offer:

Twice a year every parent receives an invitation to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss progress and areas of study to be undertaken in relation to the National Curriculum at Learning review meetings. These discussions may include information about the types of home learning which might be set by school as well as indicating activities parents might wish to develop with their children to consolidate their child's successes or to further develop the areas that they are finding more challenging.

When teachers set home learning they will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom.
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities,
- In KS2 it is supported by a home learning book in which children and parents can note success and record any problems encountered.
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.
- Work is marked as promptly as possible where appropriate.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.
- Regular completion of home learning of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- The impact of home learning upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and included in discussions with parents.
- Opportunities for the regular, formal evaluation of home learning are provided for teachers, parents and children as part of the on-going consultation arrangements.
- All children will be expected to complete tasks.

Types and amount of home learning

We increase the amount of home learning that we give the children as they move through the school. There is no set time allocation for each year group as this may change throughout the year and is dependent upon the needs of the child.

If a child persistently does not complete home learning then the teacher may contact the parents and ask to speak to them in order for school and home to work in partnership for the benefit of the child.

The Role of Parents

Parents need to discuss with their children the following questions:

- When is it a good time to do any home learning?
- Where is the best place for home learning to be done?
- What helps concentration?
- How long should my home learning take me?
- Should I ask for help with my home learning, even when it is finishing work started in class?
- Who should I ask for help and how much help should I expect?

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to home learning and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work.

The boundary between what many parents see as constructive help and what children view as interference, is indistinct and can vary from day to day. Parents need to listen to the child's explanation of what they have to do and discuss the work their child is doing and whether or not help is needed plus what form this might take.

If parents have any problems or questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If they wish to make a formal complaint about the school home learning policy or the way it is implemented; parents should put their complaint in writing as stated in the Complaints Procedure Policy.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school home learning policy. The governing body may, at any time, request from the head teacher a report on the way home learning is organised in the school.

Confirmation the Home Learning Policy in respect of St. Anne's Church of England VA Primary School has been discussed by the Governing Body.

Chair of Governors:Date:

Head teacher:Date:

Agreed at the Governing Body Meeting on: