



# **Windyknowe Primary School**

## Home Learning Policy

Reviewed and updated December 2014

## **Rationale**

Home learning encourages self discipline. It is an ongoing journey which children will start in school and continue at home so they will become confident, ambitious, life-long learners. We recognise and celebrate the children's interests and achievements outwith school and value the contribution of families in the development of the whole child.

## **Aims**

Home learning is an important part of school life as it can make a meaningful contribution to pupils' experiences by reinforcing classroom learning and providing opportunities to extend learning. It can help to promote home-school links by informing parents and carers about learning taking place in the classroom.

The purposes of home learning are to:

- Reinforce and consolidate work done in school
- Make preparations to enable contribution to tasks in class
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning
- Encourage independent thinking and learning
- Promote learning in contexts outwith the classroom
- Provide personalised and stimulating home learning opportunities

## **Curriculum Design**

In order to cater for all learning styles, we will issue a range of activities to offer personalisation and choice. They may include:

- Written tasks
- Reading and preparation
- Consolidation of work done in class
- Researching
- Creative tasks
- Active tasks

In addition to offering our pupils more choice, the tasks will allow for differentiation. Children will be able to choose tasks which are suitably challenging.

## **Frequency of Home Learning**

Children need time for family, friends and extra-curricular activities that help them develop into well-rounded people. This policy is designed to offer maximum flexibility for our children and families; therefore, home learning tasks will be issued weekly on a Wednesday (Thursday for P1-2 pupils) except for the last week of every term. This will enable the children to take responsibility for their own learning and plan their tasks around other commitments.

## **Format for Home Learning**

- All home learning tasks will be included on one A4 handout with the timescales clearly identified. (See Appendix 1 for examples).
- Teachers will offer between 6 and 8 tasks per week including the compulsory tasks.
- 4 of the tasks will be compulsory and will include Reading, Spelling / Phonics and Numeracy / Maths plus one other from a selection. (The compulsory tasks may vary from week to week in Primary 1.)
- Pupils may complete as many additional activities as they wish.
- Teachers will upload a copy of each home learning sheet to the class page on Glow each week.
- Pupils will be provided with a “Share it” jotter in which to keep all home learning sheets and evidence of completed tasks.

## **Sharing Home Learning**

- Home Learning will be shared in class every Wednesday.
- “Share it” sessions should last around 45 minutes.
- “Share it” sessions can be carried out as a whole class activity or by sharing with a partner or within a group.
- Some tasks may be shared at a more appropriate time e.g. reading tasks can be shared during reading lessons.
- The method of sharing should be recorded in each “Share it” jotter using stampers or stickers, written comments from the pupil, a peer or a member of staff.
- Teachers should ensure that they provide written feedback to every pupil at least once every three weeks.
- Pupils will receive 10 house points for every task completed.

## Home Learning Club

The Home Learning Club is staffed voluntarily by members of teaching staff once a week for half an hour at lunchtime. This facility provides a supportive environment for pupils and enables them to manage home learning effectively.

## Home Learning not completed: Steps to action

When a pupil has failed to complete home learning tasks on three occasions within one term the class teacher will contact the families to discuss any issues relating to non-completion. In some cases, the pupils will be invited to join the lunchtime Home Learning Club if they require extra support to complete the required tasks.

## Supporting Home Learning

Home Learning provides excellent opportunities for partnership working between home and school. Success depends upon both home and school providing support and encouragement to pupils as follows.

<b>The Role of the School</b>	<b>The Role of Parent/Carer</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To ensure home learning tasks are set weekly</li><li>• To monitor the return of home learning tasks</li><li>• To provide formative assessment feedback on completed tasks</li><li>• To inform parents of pupils who regularly fail to complete the tasks</li><li>• To provide necessary resources for the activities to be undertaken</li><li>• To provide opportunities for children to study out with class time through use of the library and Home Learning club</li><li>• To provide clear guidance and support material for parents</li><li>• To provide access to the internet if required</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To encourage good home learning habits</li><li>• To help establish routine schedules for completing tasks</li><li>• To ensure children complete and return home learning assignments</li><li>• To sign completed home learning tasks</li><li>• To contact the school if they have any feedback regarding the home learning tasks</li></ul>

## Additional Information

Whole school, house, class and family challenges will be issued throughout the year and will also be included on the home learning handout.

Reading records are used in Primary 1-4 to inform families about reading tasks.

Some tasks may involve the use of Glow to share learning. Pupils may record responses in their “Share it” jotter as an alternative method if necessary.

# Appendix 1