

Blean Primary School

Home Learning Policy



Date written: June 2023

Date of next review: June 2024

Introduction

Blean Primary School believes that education is a partnership between pupils, parents and school.

We believe that if the children are working to their full potential in school hours, then a corresponding amount of 'down time' is essential for an acceptable work/life balance, however some form of home learning is required.

This policy was written after research and consultation with parents, pupils and staff via a questionnaire in the academic year 2022-2023.

Aims and Objectives

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do
- Ensure that there is consistency across the school
- Use home learning as a tool to help to continue to raise attainment
- Improve the quality of the learning experiences offered to pupils and extend to outside the classroom
- Provide opportunities for the parents and child to work in partnership
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge especially in Maths and Reading and Writing

Time allowance

Home learning should not be too onerous and neither should it disrupt family life. If parents have any concerns about the home learning that has been set, they should not hesitate in contacting their child's class teacher.

Although there is no statutory set time allocation for home learning, we feel that the allocations below are a guideline for parents.

Year R	30-45 minutes per week
Year 1 and 2	45 minutes - 1 hour per week
Year 3 and 4	1 – 1 ½ hours per week
Year 5 and 6	15-30 minutes daily

Types of Home Learning

Home learning activities will take place in various forms such as; daily reading, phonics or spelling activities, maths to consolidate in school learning and research projects to showcase extra learning in an area of the curriculum. Each year group will set their own home learning additional termly activities, and these will differ as the children grow through the school.

Home learning books will be provided by the school and home learning will be sent via google classroom each week.

After consultation with the parents in November 2022, the following types of home learning were agreed across the school to ensure parity:

EYFS & KS1 (Year R, 1 & 2):

Reading – at least 5 minutes per day

Phonics – look through the words sent weekly (example activities will be provided)

Maths – short activity based on the current learning

LKS2 (Year 3 & 4):

Reading - at least 5 minutes per day

Spelling - focus words with example activities provided

Maths – times tables activities or My Maths

UKS2 (Year 5 & 6):

Reading - at least 15 minutes per day with fortnightly comprehension tasks

Spelling – focus words

Maths – My Maths or a consolidation task set fortnightly

For those pupils and families wishing to complete more home learning, there will be information provided on the year group termly overviews about creative project-based learning. ***There is no obligation to complete this.***

Reading

Reading is important at any stage of a child's development and it is vital that young children are read to and with as well as reading or attempting to read for themselves. At the start of the reading process, especially, children may be encouraged to make up stories to go with the pictures until they have enough knowledge of sounds to begin to decode. It is essential that an enjoyment of books is seen as an integral part of reading. Children in EYFS and KS1 will be sent home books matched to their phonic progression as well as having books to be read with someone at home.

Sharing texts with children remains important at KS2. This could include a discussion on a variety of books-fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers, comics, electronic texts etc. We encourage all of the family to share in this process and encourage parents to still listen to their children read.

Children will come home with their reading book on a daily basis and we hope that parents and carers will share their reading books regularly.

All children are able to change books regularly. This will be discussed at the Meet the Team evening at the beginning of the year. If parents require any further information regarding reading and changing of books, it is recommended that they speak to their child's class teacher.

Tips for sharing books

- Make a special place to read and share the book with your child
- Enjoy laughing at some of the funny parts with your children
- Talk about what is happening in the picture. This will help your child to make sense of the story.
- Help bring the book to life – paint / draw pictures of your child's favourite characters and make up other stories about them together
- Enjoy reading

Feedback

Marking of home learning will use a stamp system to demonstrate that the learning has been reviewed by the class teacher and house point stamps will be awarded for good pieces of home learning.

Other activities

As a school, we also believe that many activities undertaken by parents and carers at home, provide valuable support for the children's learning. These include:

- Playing games with children such as board games, puzzles and word games (These encourage taking turns, sharing, concentration and listening and logical thinking)
- Cooking (especially with the weighing and measuring)
- Writing lists, notes and letters
- Talking and discussing events

Class Teacher role

In relation to home learning, the class teacher will:

- Provide an explanation of the home learning tasks to parents (where necessary) and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This information will be shared via google classroom and also face to face at Parents evenings
- Provide regular home learning
- Set home learning tasks consistently across year groups
- Reward and praise children who regularly complete their home learning tasks
- Mark home learning using stamps

Role of parents/carers

- Support their child by ensuring that their child attempts the home learning set
- Provide a suitable place for their child to carry out the home learning set
- Encourage and praise when they have completed the home learning
- Actively support their child in completion of the homework

Special Educational Needs

On occasions some children may need specifically prepared work to help them make progress in their learning. The purpose is to give pupils the opportunity to succeed and, importantly, is not a way of expecting them to 'catch up' with the rest of the class. This work may include social and other skills as well as developing skills and understanding. Where a child has an Individual Learning Passport, home learning activities will take account of that pupil's personal targets.