

Sonning Church of England Primary School

Home Learning Policy



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Introduction

At Sonning Church of England Primary School, our vision is to build strong foundations for the years ahead. Supported by our school values of love, courage, respect, aspiration and curiosity, we seek to help pupils make positive choices in all they do. Like the wise man who built his house upon the rock (Matthew 7:24-25), we follow our Christian values to build strong foundations for the years ahead.

Home learning plays an important role in the way we educate our children at Sonning Church of England Primary School and this policy clarifies the objectives, methods and expectations as well as the role teachers, pupils and parents play in making this successful.

It should be noted that all references to ‘parents’ should be read as ‘parents, carers or guardians’.

Aims of this policy

The Home Learning Policy clarifies the aims, objectives and methods Sonning Church of England Primary School use to operate its Home Learning Policy. This includes the following:

- To provide the opportunity for parents and pupils to share in the learning experience.
- To give pupils the opportunity to take increasing responsibility for their own learning and learning behaviours, manage their time and develop the practice of independent study.
- To provide the opportunity to extend and develop work in all curriculum areas undertaken in school.
- To encourage the use of a range of resources outside school such as the internet, libraries and museums, as well as other community resources and organisations.
- To provide the opportunity for pre-learning of topics, research, application, practice, reinforcement and consolidation of work carried out in school.

This is all set up to support pupils to develop strong foundations for the years ahead in their learning and attitudes.

Building strong foundations for the years ahead (Matthew 7:24-25)

Love - Courage - Respect - Aspiration - Curiosity

Sonning Church of England Primary School

Home Learning Policy



Organisation of home learning

Home learning is separated into two categories: core subject home learning and creative home learning.

The core offer of home learning

A home learning grid will be shared with the pupils at the beginning of each term. This will include a range of activities that will be completed over the course of the term. The activities will reflect the learning relevant to the pupils, and linked to reading and maths.

The pupils may be asked to complete their tasks in a variety of ways; this should maximise their engagement with the tasks and develop a broad range of skills, allowing the individual children to be creative and challenged. This may also vary depending on the age of the pupils (including variations from KS1 to KS2).

We also believe that reading is the most crucial element of home learning, and would encourage parents to prioritise this, especially in EYFS and KS1 (although supporting pupils' reading and love of reading is also essential in KS2, but may look different in how you engage with your child and their reading process due to their increased confidence and ability in reading).

Creative home learning

The theme for each term's creative home learning offers the children an interesting balance of topics throughout the year, e.g. technology, humanities, creative arts or sport.

Creative home learning projects offer a range of valuable opportunities to the children:

- **Applying and consolidating learning:** Projects allow children to apply skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom to real-world scenarios, deepening their understanding and retention.
- **Developing creativity and imagination:** By encouraging children to think outside the box, explore different approaches, and express themselves uniquely, projects foster creativity and imagination.
- **Enhancing problem-solving and critical thinking skills:** Projects often require children to identify problems, research solutions, and make decisions, developing essential problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
- **Improving research and information literacy:** Projects encourage children to independently research topics, evaluate information sources, and present findings effectively.
- **Developing time management and organizational skills:** Planning and completing a project requires children to manage their time effectively, set deadlines, and organise their work, fostering essential life skills.
- **Fostering a love of learning:** Engaging in creative projects can make learning more enjoyable and meaningful, fostering a lifelong love of learning and exploration.

There will be a showcase event each term, to which all parents and governors are invited. This allows pupils to share their learning with others, developing their oracy and communication skills, as well as their ability to present to others.

Communication of home learning

- The Home Learning Policy is available on the school website.
- Information is shared with parents at the initial Class information sessions each September.
- Termly home learning (including creative home learning) is shared via each child's Cohort Team on MS Teams.
 - For Key Stage 2, pupil learning organisers are also used to support the communication of activities, deadlines or resources required.



Home learning expectations

The following expectations from different stakeholders are key to this policy:

Teachers

The teachers should ensure that the following measures are carried out:

- All the home learning instructions are clear and adequate.
- All home learning is purposeful.
- Verbal feedback is given in the case of creative home learning. Feedback on other home learning is given as and when appropriate, decided by the class teacher.
- Feedback is given to pupils through the sharing of work with peers, presentation of home learning to the class (if appropriate) and feedback from the class teacher.

Pupils

- The pupils will be expected to produce home learning of a high standard, in line with the standard of work that is expected in school.
- They are expected to take responsibility for handing in their home learning on time and on the days set by their teachers.

Parents

- Home learning gives parents the opportunity to see what their child is learning across the curriculum.
- Parents should support the children in developing good home learning routines through establishing a set time and place to complete activities or tasks.
- They should support their child with home learning activities, including helping children develop time management and independent working skills.
- Reading records (Key Stage 1) and Learning Organisers (Key Stage 2) should be recorded in and checked regularly by parents.
- Where internet access is not available at home, arrangements will be made to support children with alternate provision.
- Parents should encourage and praise their child when they have completed their home learning.
- Parents are not expected to spend money on expensive resources to support their children's home learning.

Rewards, sanctions and support

In line with our Behaviour policy, there will be appropriate rewards for those who achieve well or put excellent effort into their home learning, and sanctions for those pupils who do not put the appropriate effort into their home learning.

However, the school does take into account that home learning is to be completed at home and, therefore, this often requires parental support. With this in mind, there will often be discussions with parents regarding the level of support they can provide for their child/ren. This also takes into account the attainment levels of the pupils and the need for additional support, in and out of school.