



Everyone can shine

Home learning Policy

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SHELF JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

HOME LEARNING POLICY



What is home learning?

Learning at home is an essential part of education and is considered an integral part of the curriculum. Regular home learning is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practise learning from school at home. At Shelf Junior and Infant School we value working in partnership with parents and see it as a key contributing factor to becoming a successful learner.

Home learning also helps children to become confident and independent learners, which will help throughout their time at school, and into adult life. Home learning will positively reinforce and support work in school, enriching and consolidating ideas, skills and knowledge.

Whilst valuing home learning immensely we also understand the stresses of modern family life and understand that all families have additional commitments. We offer guidance but understand that parents and carers make decisions about how much or how little children do away from school.

What is the purpose of home learning?

The purpose of home learning is to:

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- ensure parents, carers, teachers and pupils have a clear understanding about expectations;
- improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils;
- extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision;
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs;
- in Year 6, to increasingly prepare children for secondary transfer.

What areas will be the focus of home learning?

The focus of home learning changes as children get older but throughout school learning basic facts and key skills are vital. Home learning will be based around Reading, Spelling practice and learning timetables as these are all key skills that help children to progress with learning.

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Reading practice includes reading together, reading alone and listening to others read. Sharing books with parents, siblings and carers is essential. Having an interest in words and building children's vocabulary will help them in many ways throughout their school life. Books from school and home hold equal value and can be recorded in the reading record.

Spelling practice includes learning and practising spellings that are provided by school. You can help your children to recognise spelling patterns in the environment and see patterns in similar words. Each week you can have a fun quiz to see whether they are learning and remembering new patterns.

Timestable practice includes playing games and increasing speed of recall using Times Table Rockstars (TT Rock stars). Children should know all timestables to 12x12 by Year 4 (Mackintosh classes).

How much time should be spent on home learning?

The precise amount of time spent on home learning is much less important than the **quality** of activity and the fun that can be had doing it. A regular pattern of practice is also important, particularly for literacy and numeracy. Broad expectations about the amount of time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on home learning, including reading, are:

Sheeran and Cockroft classes: 1 hour a week
Mackintosh classes: 1 and a half hours a week
Wainwright classes: 30 minutes per weekday

Who sets home learning?

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the demands of home learning are manageable for pupils and parents/carers.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that home learning is completed by children. We ask parents and carers to encourage children to tackle home work with energy and enthusiasm and treat resources with care and respect. If class teachers have any concerns regarding home learning, then parents and carers should be contacted.

How can parents and carers support pupils?

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupil can do their home learning;
- make it clear to pupils that they value home learning, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed home learning;
- become actively involved in joint home learning activities with children.

Last review: January 2022

Next review due: January 2023