



Home Learning Policy

To be reviewed three yearly

Chair of Governors, Jane Jones

Signed

East Preston Infant School Home Learning Policy

East Preston Infant School is a Rights Respecting School. All pupils, staff and visitors have the right to be healthy, safe, educated, listened to and treated fairly. These principles are at the heart of our school ethos, and our policies and practices support these rights. We are committed to equal rights, mutual respect and shared responsibility.

In this Policy we specifically recognise the following articles from the UN convention on the Rights of the Child:

Article 3 – The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Article 28 – Every child has the right to an education. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity.

Article 29 – Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Introduction:

Parents, carers and families have a vital role to play in helping their children and young people achieve their full potential – at school, college or university, in work and in life as a whole. Parents aspirations, what they do with their children at home, and how they support their child's learning and development before and during school or college have a real impact on how well their children succeed. Department for Education

This policy is based on Government guidelines which emphasise the importance of homework and how it supports your child's learning. The guidelines also state how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. Whilst most parents do appreciate the value and importance of homework, a few feel that we do not set enough homework and others feel that there is too much! The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which most people feel is reasonable and is in line with Department for Education guidelines.

Definition of home learning:

At East Preston Infant School we believe that learning takes place at home as well as at school. We define homework as home learning. Home learning is any learning activity that children are asked to do outside of school hours, with the support of parents and carers.

Aims:

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- Make sure that parents and carers have a clear understanding of what is expected of them and their children

- Develop independence and a sense of personal responsibility
- Build an effective learning partnership between home and school

Why is homework important?

At East Preston Infant School we believe that learning at home is an essential part of a good education:

- It helps to raise your child's level of achievement
- It reinforces skills, knowledge and understanding which have been taught in school and gives children the opportunity to practise or build on what they have learnt
- It encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers and gives you the opportunity to support this work and become more involved in your child's learning
- It encourages children to be confident and independent in their learning
- It is a valuable life skill and helps to develop good work habits
- It builds an effective learning partnership between home and school

What sort of activities should my child be doing?

Home learning takes place in a variety of ways – it is not always sitting down with a pencil and paper. Our home learning activities are not always about having an end product but more about going through a process, conversation being an essential part of this process. Our home learning activities are related to the learning tasks set at school, often as preparation, consolidation or follow-up to learning in school. In line with our school's approach to learning they are often practical and may involve being outdoors (think Forest and Beach Schools!). The purpose of the home learning activities we give are to help children learn and enjoy their learning, rather than whether it takes a certain amount of time. The following is a guide to the sorts of home learning activities you can expect your child to receive:

YR	<p>Reading: Individual book (Changed once per week), Library book (Changed fortnightly)</p> <p>Literacy: Phonics and/or Handwriting</p> <p>Maths: Practical task</p> <p>2simple: Parents can contribute through parent share</p>
Y1	<p>Reading: Individual book (Changed once per week), Library book (Changed fortnightly)</p> <p>Literacy: Phonics and/or spelling</p> <p>Maths: Practical or recorded task (see home learning letter)</p> <p>From time to time a topic related task</p> <p>Any work children do at home as an extra can be sent into school to be shared with the class</p>
Y2	<p>Reading: Individual book (Changed once per week), Library book (Changed fortnightly)</p> <p>Literacy: Spellings (practice daily)</p> <p>Maths: Practical or recorded task (see home learning letter)</p> <p>From time to time a topic related task</p> <p>Any work children do at home as an extra can be sent into school to be shared with the class</p>

How long should my child spend on homework?

We recognise that all children need leisure time with their family and hope that our Policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support.

The DfE suggests the following time allocation for homework however, we believe that children learn best by practising their skills little and often.

Foundation Stage	No guidelines or set homework
Years 1 and 2	One hour per week

There will be occasions when children wish to spend more time on a task and this we always welcome! However, it is important that home learning is enjoyable and so if your child is tired, frustrated or reluctant, please stop and try another time.

Feedback on your child's homework

If your child has difficulties with a piece of home learning, please share this information with school staff either verbally or by writing a short note or for reading tasks, a message in the reading diary.

Should I help my child with homework?

We strongly believe that parents and carers should support their children in their learning. Whilst we do not want parents to feel 'pressurised' to take part in the home learning tasks, we take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents and carers get involved – as long as they do not take over too much! If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher.

Pupils are expected to:

- Tackle home learning tasks with a positive attitude
- Take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected
- Take responsibility for understanding, completing and handing in the task on the agreed day

10 things you can do to help your child learn

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
 - *You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.*
 - *Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".*
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.

- *Reading should be a daily activity for all children and should include reading **to** your child*
 - *Try to find a quiet place to read together and don't forget to talk about the book*
 - *Use the questions in the Monster Phonics books to prompt 'Book Talk'.*
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
 - *Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.*
 4. Make use of your local library.
 - *Look out for special events and services for children.*
 5. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.
 - *Children have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.*
 6. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place (away from the television and electronic gadgets) where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the home learning activity.
 - *A clear space, good light and appropriate equipment will help your child to focus on the home learning tasks.*
 7. Try to set time aside to support your child's home learning activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
 8. Encourage your child to discuss home learning with you, including feedback from teachers
 - *One of the most valuable experiences a child can have is talking about their experiences and ideas with people they know, in everyday situations.*
 9. Try to make your child's home learning fun and meaningful!
 10. Make use of the school's virtual learning platform (Google Classroom),

Further opportunities for Parental Guidance provided by the School

- Information for Parents' Booklet
- New Parents' Meetings
- Year group Meetings – including summer 'welcome' meeting
- Parental Consultation Evenings, including hand-outs appropriate to year group
- Curriculum Workshops e.g. Stay and Play Sessions, Maths, Reading, Phonics, SATs
- Beach/Forest School and School Grounds Days (opportunities to share in outdoor learning)
- Open Mornings
- Weekly home learning letters
- Review meetings and Parental Guidance from Inclusion Coordinator
- Guidance from LA Specialist Inclusion and Support Service
- Guidance from Educational Psychologist
- 'Open Door' policy

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your child to succeed!