

Home Learning Policy

Purpose:

The aims and objectives of home learning are:

- to enable students to make progress in their academic and social development;
- to help students develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each student's learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow students to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help students develop research skills and good work habits for the future.

A day's work at Victoria School, coupled with travel to and from school, is a tiring experience. Students must also be able to pursue interests and activities outside of school hours. Class teachers will discuss home learning with parents and agree what is most appropriate for each student.

Home learning can take many forms and include support for therapy programmes, work towards topics or Individual Education Programme targets. Parents can make a significant contribution to their child's education in many other ways; by talking about their feelings and experiences, making things, encouraging their child to help around the house, visiting places of interest, taking walks, listening to music and singing together and watching television together.

We see home learning as an important aspect of home-school liaison set with parental approval or when requested. The following is used as a general guideline:

- Regular shared reading and communication activities. These activities can take many forms and be guided by your child's interests
- Some pre-learning and reviewing of activities relating to the theme for the term
- For students completing accredited awards, home learning will be set where appropriate, and will relate to individual programmes and courses

We want home learning to be a positive experience. We give all the students a planner where they, or their parents, or the teacher or teaching assistants record activities, and where parents and teachers make any relevant comments.

Types of home learning:

We set a variety of home learning activities. These might include:

Reading	Design	Projects	Practising
Research	Drawing	Investigation	Revision

In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stages 1 & 2 we encourage the children to read daily. We may ask students to learn spellings or complete mathematical exercises as part of their home learning. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the Key Stage 2 history unit on 1960's, we ask students to find out what life was like for their parents/grandparents and, if possible, to bring in and share examples of 60's memorabilia with the other students.

At secondary level there is a continued emphasis on reading, literacy and Maths. Home learning will range over the curriculum and depends on individual programmes and courses.

Sometimes we ask students to find and collect things that we then use in Science lessons, and occasionally we ask students to complete work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it.

When we ask students to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local library, and the Internet. Parents and key workers are given vocabulary lists, suggesting ways that they can reinforce learning at home.

The role of parents:

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Parents and carers are encouraged to feedback information to the school on progress made at home and if parents have any problems or questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Monitoring and review:

The teachers will monitor and evaluate the home learning and discuss with parents as appropriate.

DATE/TIME SCALE: Policy will be reviewed annually or as deemed necessary.

Simon Brown – Headteacher	
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