



Home Learning Policy

Introduction

At Saint Catherine of Siena we believe that education is a partnership between children, parents and school. We use the term “home learning” in its widest sense to include any learning activity that children, individually or with their parents, undertake outside school.

Rationale

What a child is asked to do at home is based on the age and ability of the child. Some activities are given to the whole class or year group and each child will be asked to complete them to the best of their ability. We are aware that children learn in different ways and we set home learning activities which enable children to record in a variety of ways. Some activities will be given individually to pupils according to their abilities.

Aims and Objectives

- ◇ Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- ◇ Ensure that there is consistency across the school and in line with age related expectations.
- ◇ Use home learning as a tool to help to continue to raise attainment.

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- ◇ 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 English.
- ◇ To help children take ownership of their own learning.
- ◇ To develop children's excitement and passion for their learning.

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.

Type of Home Learning

Home learning activities will not always be a worksheet or activity to write. Each year group has specific home learning activities. However, occasionally we will may ask the children to play a game with parents / carers or research a particular topic.

Ideas of Maths and English targets to focus on while using IXL at home may also be sent home as an option for home learning. Children will have weekly spellings and times tables sent home to learn each week.

We encourage children to be creative in how they present their home learning. For example, making a video, presenting a PowerPoint or creating 3D models.

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It is important that children develop independence however, we encourage collaboration so please indicate whether your child has worked alone or in partnership with an adult.

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 can tackle print. It is essential that an enjoyment of books is seen as an integral part of reading.

Sharing text with children remains important at KS2. This could include a discussion on a variety of book- fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers, comics, electronic texts etc. We encourage all of the family to share in this.

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.

If parents require any further information regarding reading and changing of books, it is recommended that they speak to their child's class teacher.

Spelling

In Years 1- 6 weekly spelling patterns, with example words that follow these patterns, will be sent home. It is proven that the most successful way to learn spellings of more complex words is to use them in the correct context to help children remember how to use them. It is not effective to simply get the children to repeatedly copy out the words just to prepare for a test. Children should practice their spellings in different ways (spelling fun recommendations) until they are ready to put them into sentences. Children's' understanding of the meaning and spelling of these words or of the phonic pattern will be checked on a weekly basis.



Timestables

This home learning can take many different forms: times table challenges, identifying patterns, listening to times table songs, instant recall using Apps or interactive games, such as Times Table Rock Stars.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom will be used, at times, to set Home Learning. Whole-class work will be set and feedback given will be general, not pupil specific. This kind of specific feedback is reserved for class teaching only.

Personal messages, which are sent outside of working hours, will not be responded to.

Websites

You may find the following links useful when supporting your children's learning at home:

EYFS

www.crickweb.co.uk/early-years.html
www.primaryinteractive.co.uk/early.htm
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/eyfs/

KS1

www.crickweb.co.uk/ks1literacy.html
<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/literacy/index.htm>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/>
www.storynory.com/
<http://childrenspoetryarchive.org/>
www.coolmath-games.com
www.mathletics.co.uk
www.khanacademy.org

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<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>
www.nrich.maths.org/frontpage
www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
<http://scratch.mit.edu/>

KS2

www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html
<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/literacy/index.htm>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>
<http://childrenspoetryarchive.org/>
www.storynory.com/
www.coolmath-games.com
www.mathletics.co.uk/
www.nrich.maths.org/frontpage
www.khanacademy.org
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/
<http://codekingdoms.com/>
<http://scratch.mit.edu/>

Review

The policy will be reviewed September 2020.

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