



UNITE – INSPIRE- EXCEL

Home Learning Policy

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**Member of staff responsible
for this policy in consultation
with staff and governors:**

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**Governing Body Committee
responsible for review:**

Children & Learning

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The most important aspect of children's learning is their attitude. If they are keen, interested and take a pride in their learning, then whatever their ability, they will steadily improve. By working together, we can support all aspects of their learning and development, building up their confidence as we celebrate their achievements.

1. Introduction

At Westfields Junior School, we believe that home learning supports, extends and consolidates the learning covered within the classroom while supporting children to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

2. Aims

- To create a firm partnership between parents and teachers in relation to children's learning.
- To reinforce and extend work covered in class, practise and consolidate basic skills and knowledge, or investigate applications or examples in the 'real world'.
- To encourage children to develop perseverance, initiative and self-discipline through independent study.
- To learn study skills and improve personal organisation, time management and presentation skills where appropriate.
- To help children recognise the link between good study habits and higher standards of achievement.
- To allow parents to take an active part in their child's education.
- To prepare children for secondary education.

3. Frequency of Home Learning

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|---------------|---|--|
| Year 3 | 1 piece of home learning will be set on a Thursday. It should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and be handed into school on the following Tuesday. | In addition to the home learning tasks set, children are also asked to complete the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading – Children are requested to read 4 x a week with at least one time being to an adult at home. • Spelling – Children have Spelling Books and will need to learn their weekly spellings, carrying out 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' in their books. • Multiplication Facts – Children will need to practise their Times Tables at home to ensure that they can reach the expected standard of recalling the multiplication facts up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. |
| Year 4 | This will, in most cases, be English or Maths. | |
| Year 5 | 2 pieces of home learning will be set on a Thursday. The tasks should take approximately 20 minutes each to complete and they need to be handed into school on the following Tuesday. This will, in most cases, be English and Maths. | |
| Year 6 | | |

- Please note that when there are additional pressures on the timetable e.g. production, residential trips and major school events, there may be a variation to the above. This will be communicated to the children and noted on the school website.
- If it is felt that your child would benefit from a different pattern of home learning than outlined, we will contact you to discuss this.
- Home learning is part of the children's learning journey in school. When it is received, it may be added into books or folders after the teacher has given individuals or groups of children verbal feedback or after the children have reviewed their home learning and received whole class feedback.

4. Topic Home Learning

During the year, to link with our topic learning, children will be set a range of activities to complete instead of their normal weekly tasks. For this half term period, children will receive an activity page with a range of creative tasks to choose from. They will then be able to complete these at home and bring them in to share. At the end of the half term, the children will receive a certificate for their efforts.

5. How Can Parents Help?

We ask for parents' support in seeing that home learning is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. The time expectations above are a guide however, if a child is struggling, we ask that parents stop the task and let their child's class teacher know so that extra support can be given. On the following page are helpful reminders of how parents can support home learning.

- Avoiding battles over home learning by establishing routines is key.
- Providing the necessary equipment (pencil, rubber, sharpener, ruler etc) and a quiet room, ideally with a suitable working surface will help children with their home learning.
- Setting aside time for home learning, which is respected by the rest of the family, with disturbances kept to a minimum, will allow the children space and peace in which to focus and produce their best.
- Encouraging children and building their confidence through positive praise when they have done something well will give them a boost and motivation.
- Offering to test skills which have to be learned or practised can help children in their understanding.
- Encouraging children not to rush their work, avoiding the Sunday night / last minute syndrome will ensure what is produced is of the expected standard.
- Avoiding letting children give in home learning which is of poor quality or poorly presented will ensure that the work can be added into their school books as part of their learning journey.
- Ensuring children write in pencil and only in blue pen once they have received their pen license (but not for maths) will help the presentation of the activities set.

6. How will home learning be set?

The class teacher will set the work for the children in the class and on a Thursday afternoon, they will discuss the home learning tasks with the class so they are clear as to what they need to do. Folders for home learning are used to ensure any activity sheets are kept neat and flat as they are transported to and from school. All home learning tasks can be found on the school website for parents to refer to and can be downloaded if they need to be printed in the event that a child misplaces their activity.

7. Can computers be used?

Yes, children who have access to computers are encouraged to use them safely (consider SMART Rules) to enhance their home learning as appropriate. However, no child's work will be penalised for not being prepared in this way. If there is a requirement for the home learning to be completed 'by hand', children will be made aware of this. Likewise, if the task requires access to a computer or an online resource, this will be made clear. The majority of maths home learning is set through 'MyMaths' online learning platform. (www.mymaths.co.uk) and children will be given their own unique password for this which will be found in reading records.