



# Norton St Nicholas CofE (VA) Primary School

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## Home learning Policy

At Norton St Nicholas, we believe that there should be a positive partnership between home and school; home learning is a key part of this. It offers children the opportunity to become independent learners, to practise and apply skills learned in the classroom, to develop attitudes that they need for successful lifelong learning and to prepare children for secondary school.

Home learning is an opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom and make connections with 'real life' contexts. It is also important that home learning is seen as an enjoyable complement to what happens at school. We would like to provide opportunities not only to reinforce key skills in Literacy and Maths, but also for children to learn more across a range of subjects.

The school will endeavour to:

- provide opportunities to develop skills outside of school through a range of stimulating tasks.
- develop creativity in home learning.

### Reading at Home

- We expect all children to read at home on a daily basis; this is a 'must' home learning activity for all children, however, such daily reading does not always need to be a school reading book – children can read magazines, comics, library books, books from home and this does not always need to be with an adult.

### Home learning Timetable

Class	Must Home learning		Could Home learning – The Home Learning Challenge
	Literacy	Maths	
Class 1	Weekly spellings and a fortnightly activity	A fortnightly activity	'Could' home learning tasks will be more creative, cover a range of skills and learning and be set over a prolonged period of time. As these are 'could' tasks they are not compulsory. The children who do complete the tasks will have the opportunity to present their home learning to their class.
Class 2	Weekly spellings and a fortnightly activity	A fortnightly activity	
Class 3	Weekly spellings Weekly literacy task	Timetable activities Weekly Maths	
Class 4	Weekly spellings Weekly literacy task	Timetable activities Weekly Maths	
Class 5	Weekly spellings Weekly literacy task	Timetable activities Weekly Maths	
Class 6	Weekly spellings Weekly literacy task	Timetable activities Weekly Maths	
	SATs revision as appropriate		

## **Home learning in EYFS**

Home learning will be offered informally in EYFS; with a variety of maths, literacy and phonic activities offered.

## **Home learning in Year 6**

Home learning is a very useful tool in Year 6 to transition the children to life beyond primary school and prepare the children for the expectations of secondary school. For this reason the home learning set in Year 6 may occasionally differ to the timetable above.

## **Home learning timings, holidays and absence**

- We recognise that children and families can often be very busy out of school, so we rarely set home learning to be returned the following day.
- Home learning set will, wherever possible, allow a combination of weeknights and weekend time. Weekly tasks will usually be set from a Thursday to a Tuesday.
- With the exception of SATs revision tasks in Year 6, no formal home learning will be given out during school holidays, informal/optional tasks may be offered that will consolidate your child's previous learning or nurture future learning.
- No home learning will be given during Parent Consultation weeks.
- If children are absent due to illness it will be assumed that they are too ill to learn and therefore home learning will not be sent home.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Headteacher first.
- It is not possible to give home learning when parents take holidays in term time.
- Home learning handed in late may not be marked.

## **Rewards for pleasing home learning**

When children complete their home learning to a good standard they will receive a stamp for each piece of work. Children will collect stamps over the course of the year; for every 50 home learning stamps collected a certificate of achievement will be awarded to the child for their home learning effort.

## **Additional tasks**

- Each class teacher may also send learning home to be finished off.

## **Inclusion**

- If your child has been given an APDR (Assess, plan, do, review) their targets will involve learning at home agreed at the target setting meeting.
- Children who receive Tracks support will not receive extra class spellings – the Tracks words will be considered to be their spellings to learn and practice at home.

## **General notes regarding home learning**

- It is important that children of all abilities are set appropriate home learning. Weekly home learning activities may be differentiated according to children's ability or tasks may be set for children to complete at their own level of understanding.
- Staff will also aim to ensure that there is a wide variety of tasks that will be of interest to all children.
- If home circumstances make completing a piece of home learning very difficult, then parents or children are encouraged to inform the class teacher and, if appropriate, time or resources will then be made available to children in school.
- If a child cannot access the Internet at home for example, then arrangements will be made for them to use the Internet at school for research or to develop skills. The IT Suite is available to families after school on a Friday.

## **Relationship to other policies**

The policy refers to commitments made in the home-school agreement.

## **Role of the School**

The school leadership will ensure that home learning is:

- appropriate to the age, ability and circumstances of the pupils;
- coordinated in order to be manageable for children on a daily basis.

## **Teachers will ensure that:**

- where appropriate, an explanation of home learning task is given to children and parents;
- there is regular home learning set up in an easily followed routine;
- any home learning is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught;
- children who regularly complete home learning tasks are rewarded and praised;
- home learning is marked, when necessary, with feedback in line with the Marking and Feedback Policy;
- tasks are differentiated and well structured;
- pupils understand the purpose of the home learning tasks;
- it is clear to pupils how their home learning consolidates and extends the learning they are doing in school.

## **Role of Pupils and Parents**

Pupils will

- complete their home learning to the best of their ability in a well presented manner;
- demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time completing the tasks set;
- return their learning on time.

Parents will:

- support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the home learning;
- provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their home learning;
- encourage and praise their child when they have completed their home learning;
- become actively involved and support their child with home learning activities;
- sign completed home learning;
- provide written feedback when appropriate;
- make it clear that they value home learning and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

## **Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation**

- Class teachers will monitor home learning by checking pupils' learning. The governing body or its Curriculum Committee will, during the course of the policy, survey a random sample of parents and pupils for their views on the effectiveness of the current practice and the effectiveness of this policy.

## ***A Final Note***

REMEMBER, home learning is meant to be an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for all and should not be allowed to cause distress to pupils, parents or teachers! Please discuss any problems with the class teacher concerned as soon as they arise.

**Reviewed: March 2015**

**Next Review Date: March 2018**

***This policy has been reviewed and has been assessed as being compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010***