

Version control: V3

Date approved

**January
2021**

Review planned

July 2022

Signed

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10 / 5 / 2021

Gwen Kelsey, Chair of Governors



LONGFORD
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Our homework Intent

At Longford Church of England Primary School, we recognise that parents make an enormous contribution in supporting the education of our children. Parental encouragement is a key factor in raising attainment and fostering a love of learning.

We believe learning is a lifelong journey, which begins at home and is nurtured in a range of contexts and settings, including school. The most effective learning takes place in a fun, stimulating and exciting context – often through play. For example; story telling, playing games, talking with children and by celebrating the sense of wonder in our world. Some of the most meaningful learning experiences which take place in a young person's life come from within the home setting. These can take the form of helping on shopping trips, discussing the content of a television programme, playing a game in a local park or simply sharing a story before bedtime. We believe that these routines play as important a part in child development as formalised classroom learning.

Within this context, school home learning has a role to play in supporting learning, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practise at home the tasks done in class and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school, as well as in adult life.

Our Aims

- To provide parents/carers and pupils with information about what is expected in terms of home learning on a weekly basis.
- To set out the purposes of home learning
- To develop an effective partnership between the school, parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school.

- To close gaps in children's personal learning as they are identified through assessment.

3. What is the purpose of homework?

At Longford Church of England Primary School, we see the purpose of home learning as the following:

- Preparing pupils for learning a new topic by providing pre-learning tasks which will result in some prior knowledge and therefore support children in their learning.
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding taught in programmes of work at school, particularly in English and Mathematics.
- Addressing areas where a child has a gap in learning or is currently finding challenging.
- Making use of resources for learning of all kinds at home and developing the learning environment from the school to home.
- Encouraging pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

How much homework will a child get?

We believe the type and amount of homework, which is appropriate for pupils of different ages, varies according to the pupil. This is a view that is reinforced through the feedback from our Parent Questionnaire survey carried out in July 2019. This Policy has been developed accordingly.

The main focus of homework at Longford Church of England Primary School is English and Maths (this is in accordance of DfE guidelines) and to extend the creativity of approach in topic work. Science and other subjects may be added as pupils' ages increase, as long as the balance of English and Maths is maintained.

Each child will receive a **Core Offer of homework** each week:

1. Reading practice
2. Spellings or phonics, depending on age
3. One piece of either Mathematics or English homework.
4. Prior to a new topic being launched each class will be given a pre-learning task which will result in the acquisition of some prior knowledge to support children in their learning.
5. Each child will also receive one topic themed piece of creative homework each term, this will be completed over a number of weeks.

In addition to the core offer, additional **Personalised homework** may be provided for one of two reasons:

- The class teacher feels that extra practice of a concept would help to close an achievement gap or secure an objective.
- Parental request.

What do we expect of home learning?

When we give home learning to children, we encourage children to complete it to the best of their ability but do understand that there are some exceptional circumstances when homework will not be completed.

Homework is usually (with the exception of the creative topic task) to be carried out in the blank page **Home Learning Journal** which encourages independence in presentation and organization. The purpose of the home learning journal book mirroring the books used during school time is to emphasize that expectations of presentation and handwriting are consistent with those in school

Homework should be completed in pen or pencil according to what the child uses at school.

Homework is expected to be presented with the same standard of presentation as work in class.

How will we let you know what homework is required?

Children will receive an age-appropriate reading book every week. Throughout 2020-21, weekly support for parents on how to use questioning to develop children's reading comprehension will be provided in The Clock (the school's weekly newsletter).

A Parent hub message will be sent home weekly by each class teaching on a Friday, explaining the curriculum content to be covered that week, ways parents could support their child and outlining the weekly Mathematics or English homework. All parents are encouraged to take an active role in discussing learning within the home setting.

What is the role of the parent/carer in supporting pupils?

In order that homework be successful in developing children's learning, it is important that parents / carers make it clear to children that they value the process of homework and explain to children how it can help their education. Talking about the homework set is essential. This could take the form of the child explaining what he or she has to do to complete the homework. Equally, it could mean working with the child to complete the homework. Parents, (particularly of younger children or children with Special Educational Needs), should support children with all homework activities. This means:

- Checking the child has remembered their homework
- Discussing what the child has to do
- Supporting the child with the homework itself

Additionally, parents should try to ensure children have a suitable place to complete their homework and encourage children with praise once they have completed homework.

How is homework planned and co-ordinated?

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring the demands of homework are manageable and achievable for pupils.

The senior management team of Longford Church of England Primary School will take responsibility for monitoring homework across the school.