

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School



Home Learning Policy

What is Home Learning?

'Home Learning' refers to any learning or activities which the children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/ carers. The purpose of home learning is to:

- encourage personal organisation and responsibility;
- encourage independence and creative thinking;
- promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in reading;
- increase self-esteem and boost confidence;
- develop positive attitudes to learning.

At St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, we believe that home learning is a valuable and integral part of a child's learning.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure that home learning is relevant, engaging and supports learning;
- ensure that parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- ensure the needs of individual children are taken into account.

Learning Logs

At St Matthew's we follow a whole school approach to home learning in the form of Learning Logs. Learning Logs are a fun way for our children to demonstrate their understanding of learning in class, whilst practising skills and helping them to remember learning which has taken place in school.

Every child, from Nursery to Year 6, has their own Learning Log which is taken home to work in and to share with parents or carers. The tasks in the Learning Log are explained in school and compliment learning which has taken place in school. The children are encouraged to record their learning creatively and imaginatively in their Learning Logs.

What are Learning Logs?

- Learning Logs are a personal reflective journal for children to record their knowledge and understanding.
- They are an opportunity for children to extend and consolidate their learning in the classroom.
- They encourage children to be creative and independent.
- They encourage children to be actively engaged in their own learning and take pride in their work.
- It gives an opportunity for parents to assist in their child's learning.
- Learning logs are 'inclusive' and cater for all abilities and learning styles.
- Learning logs are an assessment tool for both pupils and teachers.

Marking Home Learning

A key element in the use of Learning Logs is encouraging the children to be self – evaluative. The children are encouraged to indicate their level of understanding of the task using traffic light symbols. They are also encouraged to give reflective comments about their learning if appropriate. This helps to indicate to the teacher further needs of the children and to inform future planning, as well as to indicate to parents or carers areas of learning where their child may need further help and support at home. Home learning will be marked in a variety of ways including:

- Peer assessment. Children are encouraged to share and review their thinking and learning and to discuss their ideas.
- Self assessment through the use of traffic lights
- House points, stickers and stamps
- Constructive feedback on the tasks
- Verbal praise
- Written feedback

Equal Opportunities

Specific home learning tasks will be differentiated in order to meet the individual needs of the children. Those children with additional needs may need to have the task further differentiated.

Home Learning for children in Foundation Stage

Throughout the Foundation Stage the children complete:

- At least one 'learning log activity' a week
- Reading
- Spellings (summer term)

Home Learning for children in Key Stage 1

KS1 children are expected to complete:

- One 'learning log activity' a week
- Reading
- Spellings
- One piece of maths home learning

Home Learning for children in Lower Key Stage 2

Lower KS2 children are expected to complete:

- One 'learning log activity' a week
- Reading
- Spelling
- One piece of maths home learning

Home Learning for children in Upper Key Stage 2

Upper KS2 children are expected to complete:

- One 'learning log activity' a week
- Reading
- Spelling
- One piece of maths home learning

Role of school

In order that home learning makes a positive contribution to a child's education, staff at St Matthew's will ensure that:

- we provide a consistent approach throughout the school;
- pupils and parents are clear about what they need to do;
- we maintain high expectations for the quality of home learning;
- home learning tasks are varied and interesting;
- we value the role of parents/carers in supporting their children with the home learning we provide;
- we discuss any problems with the child (or parent, if appropriate) as they arise;
- we provide children constructive feedback regarding the quality and attainment of completed tasks;
- encourage all children through praise and recognition of individual efforts;
- the home learning policy is regularly monitored and reviewed.

Role of Parents

At St Matthew's we encourage all parents to take an active part in their child's learning. We expect them to:

- encourage and support their child and praise their efforts;
- talk to their child about their home learning;
- ensure home learning is completed and handed in on time;
- be aware of their child's latest targets and support their child in progressing towards them.

Role of Pupils

- Give the task your very best effort, be proud of what you are doing and enjoy it!
- Hand your home learning in on time.