

Lyme Community Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Aims

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Lyme Community Primary School we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one to one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, at Lyme we don't believe that homework should dominate home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Types of home learning

Staff and students regard home learning as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

In Foundation Stage library books are sent home every week to share with parents. In addition to this Reception children will also take home a school reading book.

In KS1 & 2, children will receive home learning on a Friday: one piece will be spelling related and one piece will relate to 'The 99 Club' (learning number facts). Home learning is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning.

Central to the success of this style of learning is that the individual needs and abilities of the child are catered for. In addition, it is vital that parents have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. This is particularly applicable to younger children, where apparently simple tasks such as reading often require detailed explanation from the teacher if both child and parent are to meet with success. Relevant advice is provided for parents.

We recognise that students have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach. Students in all classes from Y1 to Y6 will carry out Independent Learning Projects. This is related to their class topic, for example, The Ancient Greeks, and gives children the opportunity to carry out research and present their findings in a way of their choice, for example, using

IT, Art or Writing. Parents will be asked to support their children with this at home by discussing ideas with them, perhaps taking them to the library and helping them to locate information. The outcomes from these projects will be displayed for parents as an Exhibition in the school hall or on the website on a termly basis.

Inclusion and home learning

We set home learning for all students as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

The role of parents

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them on at least three occasions during each week.

If parents and carers have any questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school home learning policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the Head teacher in the first instance and should concerns still remain, the governing body.

Use of IT

A copy of the school's Internet/ E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of I.T. and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their students to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school home learning policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues.

Reviewed and amended: September 2016

To be reviewed: September 2018