

Sutton Benger CE Aided Primary School

Home Learning Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 Home learning is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with home learning.

2 Rationale for home learning

2.1 Home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed, we see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners; we believe that home learning is one of the ways in which children can acquire and develop this skill.

2.2 Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning sent home from school is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play a significant part in the lives of many children. Children spend more time at home than at school and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available both inside and outside of school.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of home learning are:

- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To help children develop good work habits.
- To help children prepare for the next stage of their education.

4 Types of home learning

4.1 We set a variety of home learning activities appropriate to the age and ability of the children. However, we expect all children to be reading regularly/being read to throughout the week. We may also ask children to learn spellings or mathematical tables as part of their home learning, or complete other

weekly English and Maths activities. The children have access to Mathletics as a home learning tool and are set regular activities to reinforce their learning.

Each term every class has a selection of activities on their home learning planner that are related to their learning in class. These activities cover a range of subject areas including Art, Science, History, Music, and will relate to the topics studied in classes. Children are encouraged to complete at least two of these activities during the term. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local library, as well as the Internet.

5 Rewards and Sanctions

- 5.1** Children can be awarded merits, stickers, certificates and super learning power beads in recognition of their effort and success with their home learning, in the same way as for class learning activities. We expect home learning to be completed; children who regularly do not complete and hand in their home learning will be required to finish it during a lunchtime or Golden Time.

6 Amount of home learning

- 6.1** Although there is no legal requirement for schools to provide a set amount of home learning for primary school children, at Sutton Benger Primary our expectation is that children complete regular home learning activities. The time set for home learning is less important than the quality of the activities set and the way in which they support learning in the classroom. However, we do expect that as the children move through the school they spend an increasing amount of time on home learning.

7 Pupils with special educational needs

- 7.1** We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special educational needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting home learning to pupils who are named on the register of special educational needs, we bear in mind the child's individual support plan.

8 The role of parents

- 8.1** Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to access materials to support with their home learning and by discussing the activity that their child is doing.
- 8.2** If parents have any problems or questions about home learning, in the first instance they should contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact

the Headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school home learning policy or the way it is implemented, parents should follow the school's complaints procedures.

9 Monitoring and review

- 9.1** 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 – the Teaching & Learning Committee. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our Headteacher a report on the way home learning is organised in our school.