



Elmtree Infant and Nursery School

Home Learning Guidance and Principles

Introduction At Elmtree Infant and Nursery School, we believe that home learning can enhance a pupil's development, attainment and progress and is therefore an important part of a child's education. It is also an opportunity to foster a love for learning with your child through both curriculum and creative opportunities as well as an opportunity to strengthen the home-school partnership.

Aims of the policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to reinforce, consolidate or extend their learning in areas of the curriculum and/ or of personal interest
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- Encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- Make set home learning relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work learned at school
- Make expectations about home learning clear to children, parents and other carers
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practise skills, consolidate understanding of work learned in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

Research shows that when parents are engaged in their child's school life, pupils are more likely to do well academically, have higher self-esteem, and exhibit positive behaviour.

Principles

Our home learning opportunities will focus on non-negotiables of reading with your child at least 4 times a week and listening to you child read at least four times a week, as well as basic skills and practise for phonics (blending and segmenting) and key concepts with number.

We want children to have the best chance at achieving their full potential. With home learning opportunities children can demonstrate their learning for the most important skills in English and Mathematics as well as demonstrate their wider interests, knowledge and skills from across the curriculum.

Our Commitment

- The amount and difficulty of home learning is tailored according to the child's age and ability, including where a child has identified additional needs as part of an Education Health and Care Plan.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of home learning to allow for a healthy home- and school-work balance.
- As the children progress through the school so the amount of home learning increases and the relevant time allocation for this.
- Teachers ensure that the tasks are adapted where necessary, purposeful and aimed at reinforcing, developing and/ or consolidating basic skills and concepts learned in class.
- Home learning should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant.

- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear learning objectives and motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- Parents and carers will be informed about our aims in setting home learning and about the importance this type of work plays in children’s education.
- We are committed to family time for you and your child. Home learning will not require worksheets, helping to support our wider commitment to reducing paper usage and deforestation; and will not require screen time for our youngest learners (in Nursery and Reception) so that we can continue to promote and support activities that can be done together/ as a family.

Home Learning Activities

Our home learning is designed to build upon the concepts and skills that pupils have been learning first and foremost in English and Mathematics. In addition, we may, on occasion, set home learning activities linked to the wider curriculum for the same purposes of reinforcing, consolidating or practising learning, or indeed for enrichment and enjoyment.

A breakdown of how home learning is structured in each phase is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Year 2 they have established a clear routine in preparation for junior school.

Expectations

It is the expectation that all children will at least attempt to complete home learning tasks to the best of their ability, with your support. If pupils need support to access these activities, then they may be invited to attend a lunchtime home learning club for Purple Mash/ Bug Club when these are available.

The curriculum activities and time set aside for children to complete their home learning as a guide is as follows:

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Be read to by an adult daily in any language	Be read to by an adult daily in any language	1 hour 4x 10 minutes reading to an adult	1 hour, 25 minutes Reading to an adult at least 4 times a week

	4x 10 minutes reading to an adult (phonics reading book)	(phonics reading book)	Spellings
	Phonics/ tricky word practice	Phonics	Phonics
	No worksheets	Maths (Purple Mash)	Maths (PurpleMash/ Times Table Rock Stars)
On occasion, home learning activities linked to the wider curriculum will be given for the same purposes of reinforcing, consolidating or practising learning, or indeed for enrichment and enjoyment.			

How you can help your child with their home learning

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their home learning, and the time and effort spent completing it. The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to home learning. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework. You can show you value your child's home learning by:

- ✓ making a commitment to our family pledge of ensuring you read to your child (in any language) at least 4 times a week; listening to your child read at least 4 times a week; helping them with their home learning activities in partnership
- ✓ providing a suitable place in which your child can do their home learning, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support.
- ✓ making it clear to your child that you value home learning and support the school in explaining how it can help learning.
- ✓ encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set.
- ✓ signing and dating your child's completed home learning to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts.
- ✓ ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time.
- ✓ checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on home learning and it is not rushed.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- visiting libraries, museums, age-appropriate performances etc.
- cooking with them
- taking your child swimming
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games
- watching informative TV programmes together
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- gardening and growing plants
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning

We want to give Elmtree children the very best start in life and that means working in partnership with parents, carers and our community. When parents are engaged in their child's school life, children are more likely to do well academically, have higher self-esteem, and exhibit positive behaviour.

Remember: Home learning is about reinforcing, practising and confidence building. Enthusing your child about undertaking home learning and modelling the high value of home learning to them is of key importance. Make it fun!