



DOWNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Home Learning Policy

What is home learning?

Home learning refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons either on their own or with parents or carers. It does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without any adult help. It is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which may be quite short. Common homework activities may be reading or preparing for work to be done in class ('pre-learning'), or practising and completing tasks or activities already taught or started in lessons, but it may include more extended activities to develop inquiry skills or more directed and focused work such as revision for exams.

How effective is it?

Research by the Education Endowment Foundation has shown that overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning. However, effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support and can be developed to increase parental engagement. For this reason, Downton Primary School wishes to sustain a programme of home learning activities. Short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework and there are greater benefits if the purpose of homework is made clear to children.

What is the purpose of home learning?

- It develops an effective partnership between the school and parents.
- It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding.
- It enthruses children to extend their learning.
- It encourages children to develop the confidence and the self-discipline needed to study on their own, preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

How will it be implemented?

- Tasks should be carefully planned and structured to support progression in learning.
- Pupils and parents should be very clear about what they need to do.
- Pupils will receive feedback (verbal or written) or will be expected to 'share' their learning with the class.
- The policy will be regularly monitored.

How much home learning will there be, and in which subjects?

The main focus will be on English, especially reading, and Mathematics. Increasingly, as children progress through the school, other curriculum subjects will be introduced/addressed. For infants, home learning will consist largely of reading and sharing books and playing number games. For juniors, activities will be more substantial and challenging. In addition to literacy and numeracy activities, tasks may include researching information, reading in preparation for lessons and written assignments, for example.

Home learning should not get in the way of other 'after school' activities, such as sport, clubs, music etc.

The Government recommends that Key Stage 1 children have 1 hour/week, children in years 3 and 4, 1.5 hours/week and children in Years 5 and 6, 30 minutes/day. Children with Special Educational Needs should not be excluded, but suitably modified activities should be given.

Below is listed our home learning programme:

FS2

(Reception Class)

Ongoing (daily):

- Listening to adults read stories
- Reading (reading book and own literature)
- Reading and spelling from word cards
- Tag words
- Handwriting

Once a week, when relevant, a practical maths activity.

Occasionally:

- A topic related home learning task

If your child doesn't receive a specific 'weekly' home learning task, they will be expected to select a task from the ongoing list.

KS1

(Years 1 & 2)

Ongoing (daily):

- Listening to adults read stories
- Reading (from reading book and other books/own literature – we recommend no more than 10 or 15 minutes). Please record and sign the 'Reading Record'
- Reading and spelling from word cards
- Number facts
- Tag words

Once a week, a specific home learning task to support a curriculum subject.

If your child doesn't receive a specific 'weekly' home learning task, they will be expected to select a task from the ongoing list.

KS2

Years 3, 4 & 5

Ongoing (daily):

Children should engage in independent reading. This will normally be a school reading book, but, additionally, could be a book of the child's choice or other reading matter.

Daily spelling

Timestables – 3,4,6,7,8 and 9

Y3/4

Once a week, 15 minutes reading related activities,

Y5

Twice a week, 15-20 minutes reading related activities.

Parents should record reading tasks completed, at least twice a week, in the 'Reading Record'.

'Reading Related' activities include:

- discussion of the text
- questioning and 'interrogation' of the text
- creating a reading log
- writing a book review
- vocabulary and spelling work
- grammar and punctuation work

(This work will not be provided by the school. Parents should refer to the lists of spellings and grammar included in the primary national curriculum for each year group and to the school's website pages for additional suggestions of activities and links.)

Once a week

Children will select a task from a 'menu' of activities that address a range of curriculum subject areas. A menu activities, for example, will be published at the start of a term and the child will choose one of the activities to complete each week. Tasks will cater for a variety of interests and aptitudes and will include practical and creative activities as well as written, mathematical or problem solving/puzzle activities.

From time to time the teacher may send home a particular, specific activity to support an aspect of that week's learning. This will be in place of the 'menu' of activities.

Additional tasks

Some children, (or their parents!), like to do more home learning.

We suggest that the following resources could be used as activities that children could undertake with their parents, or independently at home. These will not necessarily be monitored by the teacher. For example:

- Timestables RockStars
- Year group spelling lists) These are available in the Primary National Curriculum
- Year group reading lists) document or on our school's website.

Year 6

Each child will be given a Reading and maths workbook.

English

Each child will be given an English related activity to complete each week. This may be a reading comprehension task, or a grammar, punctuation and spelling task. The work will be set on a Monday and should be completed and returned to school on the Thursday of the same week. Children are also expected to read at least 5 times per week and should record their reading in the homework diary, rather than in a reading record book. They should try to read a range of text for enjoyment and to support learning. Children should continue to learn spellings from the Y5/6 word list and will bring home 6 targeted spellings each week to learn for their test on Friday.

SPAG.com

Each child will be given a log in for SPAG.com where they can access activities to support learning in Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation.

Maths

Children will be set specific maths activities to complete using their workbook every week. These activities will be set on a Wednesday, with an expectation that they are completed by the following Wednesday, and will relate to learning in maths lessons.

We expect all children to complete their home learning, unless there is a valid reason.
(Parents should inform the class teacher.)

There will be incentives to encourage children to complete their learning tasks.

Special Educational Needs

- parents need to offer closer support -
- parents should seek advice from the teacher if guidance is needed.

Responsibilities:

Parents.

Parents should provide a peaceful, suitable place for children to do their home learning. They should show that they value homework and offer plenty of praise, encouragement and support. Parents should take an interest in home learning and offer their help. Parents should not do the task for the child!

Teachers.

Teachers will carefully plan and monitor home learning, and give children regular feedback and/or opportunities to share their learning. They should offer clear instructions and guidance on the level of help expected. Some activities should be done completely independently. The workload for teachers should be manageable.

Children.

Children should try to do their home learning carefully and should return work to school, if appropriate, on the required day. The older children should try to organise their own equipment and materials.

N.B.

Because it can be difficult to complete home learning on a particular night, all work will be set a week in advance and will be expected in school the following week. We do not wish to make home learning too arduous, neither do we wish to cause any anxiety for children or their parents. We believe that children should also have time for rest and relaxation and to pursue leisure activities.

At particularly busy times of the year, e.g. at the end of the Summer and Christmas terms, home learning may not be set.