NEW SILKSWORTH ACADEMY

ALLIANCE • AMBITION • ACHIEVEMENT

Home Learning Policy

Policy Dated:	January 2025
Adopted by Governing Body:	
Date of Next Review:	January 2027
Reason for Review/Revision:	As per review cycle
Publication Scheme	Website
Version	03
Lead	Headteacher

Introduction:

This guidance is intended to enable and support pupils' learning at home.

Aims:

- To ensure set learning is consistent across the school and in-line with age related expectations
- To help pupils to take ownership of their own learning
- To develop pupils' passion and excitement for their own learning
- To support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement
- To aid parents in supporting their children at home, providing a greater understanding of how home learning supports the classroom learning

Fundamental principles:

The fundamental principles which underpin our home learning policy are:

- A firm understanding that learning continues beyond the school day.
- That learning and understanding are deepened through repetition and practice.
- That learning should be fun and creative.
- Reading regularly should be part of a child's routine.
- Basic maths skills, such as multiplication tables and number facts should be regularly practised.
- Spelling patterns and key words should be regularly practised, preferably in the context of a spoken and written sentence (when they are ready).
- An increase in challenge with age and consistency of practice across the school.
- Children should take some responsibility for their learning from an early age.

Basic routines:

- Reading regularly, aiming for 5 times a week, either being heard or reading independently.
- Weekly mathematics home learning (mental or written, year group dependent).
- Phonics activities for learners in EYFS and Y1 (and for those where it is most appropriate).
- Weekly spelling/phonic patterns with related words alongside some high frequency words for children to practise using when writing sentences (Y1-6).
- Teachers will regularly check any online learning to ensure children are using the activities.
- Reading books for all year groups should be in school daily – using the BoomReader App to record and log reading at home.

Early Years:

Home Learning in 2YO Early Learners and Nursery

In 2YO Early Learners and Nursery children are encouraged to read for pleasure. They have access to a range of books which they can browse through and choose to take home regularly to share with parents/carers.

The vast majority of home learning activities, in 2YO Early Learners and Nursery, are aimed at development of communication and language by encouraging talking together and having fun. Each term children will be set an activity to enjoy at home with parents/carers linked to learning in school such as an Autumn Treasure Hunt.
We also welcome information from parents/carers about anything they have done with their child at home or children's achievements such as dancing awards. This provides us with an insight into the children's interests and enables us to plan to develop these.

In Nursery, when children are ready, parents/carers are provided with suggestions as to how they can support their child at home with phonics and maths in a practical way.

Home Learning in Reception

We place a high value on reading. In the Early Years, children read regularly at school and there is an expectation that they also read regularly at home with parents/carers too. To support this, children bring home a decodable book each week to read at home, after reading this book during three reading sessions in class. Children take their reading book home on a Friday and return their book on a Tuesday. The children also have access to their reading books on Collins Hub, which is an online app so that children have access to their reading book once it has been returned to school.
In order to encourage children to become lifelong readers, it is important that children learn to read for pleasure. In EYFS we send home sharing books which is a book they have chosen to share with parents/carers by reading it with them; discussing the pictures, enjoying the story, predicting what might happen next, and exploring the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!
In Reception to support early reading skills, tricky words and letter (grapheme) flashcards are sent home linked to our chosen phonics scheme, Little Wandle. Staff also share games and activities on Class Dojo which parents/carers can complete at home to support with reading at home.

Maths games aimed to consolidate learning and, where relevant, creative activities linked to other areas of the curriculum are shared on Class Dojo.

Years 1-4:

- Learners in each year group will be asked to complete short mathematical activities based around number fluency and learning multiplication tables (the National Curriculum expectation is that by the end of Y4 all facts will be learned to 12x12). Teachers will recommend specific games each week that learners could play at home with parents but also point them in the direction of useful websites for practise too, this will be linked to counting, addition and subtraction facts as well as multiplication and division facts (#WeAreFluent). Learners in Year 1 will be asked to

practise number facts using Numbots; the teacher will set the facts the children need to practise. Learners in Y2-Y4 will be asked to practise times tables using Time Tables Rock Stars; the teacher will share the tables the children need to practise weekly and will set 'Battle of the Bands' to encourage children to practise at home.

- Reading regularly is one of the most important things we encourage. Learners should enjoy reading and have access to a wide range of reading materials. These may include their class reader but may also include comics, websites, information books, instructions, invitations, letters etc. All pupils have a log in for our reading apps such as Little Wandle and/or Reading Plus. These should be used at home to develop learning and enjoyment of reading.
- Learners will also be given graphemes and/or spelling patterns in example words each week. It's proven that the most successful way to learn spellings is to use them, in the correct context, to help children remember them. Children should learn their spellings in different fun ways, sometimes a rhyme can help, or an action. Learners' understanding of the meaning and patterns in these words will be checked as they use these words in their everyday writing.

Years 5-6:

Home learning in Year 5 and Year 6 is formal preparation for their transition into Key Stage 3. Learners will develop their application of knowledge, acquired from Nursery through to their current year group, and grow in confidence to use higher level thinking.

- Learners are encouraged to read widely, we will encourage them to read material to give them enjoyment and material to provide them with knowledge.
- Learners will also be given spelling patterns in example words each week. It's proven that the most successful way to learn spellings is to use them, in the correct context, to help children remember them. Learners' understanding of the meaning and patterns in these words will be checked as they use these words in their everyday writing.
- To support learning in Y6 and in preparation for the National SATs all learners will have revision guides.
- Year 5 & 6 have access to Reading Plus for home learning to develop reading fluency, stamina and comprehension in preparation for National SATs and secondary education. They should aim to complete one 30 min session on this weekly. This can be monitored by teachers through the programme.
- Year 5 & 6 should also access TTRockstars regularly to maintain the fluency of their time tables recall to support all aspects of the math's curriculum particularly arithmetic.

Reading:

Our pupils are encouraged to read regularly for both their own enjoyment and also their development. The frequency that books are taken home from school varies with age:

- In 2YO Early Learners and Nursery, children are encouraged to choose a book from our lending library to share together at home. Children can also visit our school book bar that gives books to children to enjoy at home.

- Reception, children are given a set of Little Wandle GPC flashcards once they start Little Wandle phonic sessions in week 2 of the Autumn term. These GPC cards can be used to build CVC cards (consonant, vowel consonant e.g cat). Children are given a stage appropriate reading book to take home to read. This is the same book they have read in school during their reading sessions. This book is also allocated on Collins Hub, which is an online reading app. By reading this book regularly at home this develops children's fluency, prosody and comprehension skills. Tricky word cards are also shared with parents via dojo and as word cards to be practised regularly.
- Y1-3, children will take home 1-2 books per week, depending on length of book. Children who are taught phonics using the Little Wandle programme bring their reading book home each Friday to read at home. This book is also on Collins Hub an online app. This is the same book which the children have read during their reading session in class. The children reread this book a number of times within a week to develop their prosody, fluency and comprehension of the text.
- Y4-6, children independently choose a new home book or read an appropriate book from home. These are to be brought in daily and changed when completed.

- A reading log via the BoomReader App should be commented in by an adult and may include reading comments, Little Wandle, Reading Plus or phonics progress noted at home.
- All pupils from Year 3 have a Reading Plus log in and this can be used at home to develop learning and enjoyment using ICT.
- Children in all year groups have the opportunity to choose a library book and to take a pre-owned book from our Book Bar. This book is a reading for pleasure book which the children can enjoy at home.

Home Learning Club:

Pupils from Y1-6 will be invited to attend a home learning club after school. This will give learners access to additional support from an adult and also provide learners with additional resources that they may need. This is intended to ensure equality and equity for our learners and to ensure that all children have the opportunity to undertake home learning tasks with the same excitement.

Holiday Home Learning:

We **will not** set home learning over school holidays, although learners will still have access to their reading books in all holidays apart from the summer long break. However, learners will always have access to Reading Plus and Times Tables Rock Stars, if they wish to use them.

When Home Learning becomes difficult

Parents are encouraged to inform their class teacher when learning is difficult at home, perhaps a child is unwilling to complete tasks or getting particularly upset when learning at home. Our staff may be able to support the children in completing the tasks in a different way or be able to seek advice from our Social Inclusion officer. Overall the responsibility for ensuring children are enjoying completing their home learning rests with parents but we will try to offer support when needed.

Learning with parents

Each term, we will inform our parents of workshops in school to attend with their children, going over maths strategies, grammatical rules and phonics sounds are just some of the types of workshops we offer.

In addition, we have creative days so families can join us to create projects based on the theme of learning in school.