



WBJS Home Learning Policy

William Barcroft Junior School

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Introduction

At William Barcroft we put a great deal of emphasis on the important partnership between school and home. We understand that the opportunity to learn and develop does not stop when a child leaves school at home time. Home learning is anything that contributes to the child's learning in response to guidance or request from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support learning.

Rationale for home learning

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 the skill of independent learning. Children enjoy sharing their learning journey with their family and this is a good opportunity for bonding.

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 is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that 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 outside of school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of home learning are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to allow pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in more depth in more area that interest that them and so develop[s their love of learning and independent research.
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons independently;
- to help children develop good work ethic for the future.

Types of home learning

We strongly encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We may at times send additional, targeted activities to support children's individual needs. This may be times tables suited to

the year groups or key National Curriculum spellings. We also welcome any type of home learning from the children such as stories or poems or number based work.

We may set home learning as a means of helping the children to prepare for examinations as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood. This will also support them in their transition on their future learning journey.

Amount of home learning

All children are expected to read a minimum of three times per week which is incentivised by a reading token which enters the child into a weekly draw and if successful, they can win a book. Children need to hand in their reading record in daily so this can be monitored. As the children move through the school, more reads per week are encouraged. This is in line with the school's reading expectations. It is expected that reading books and records are carried to and from school in a bag provided stop becoming from becoming creased or torn. Children are encouraged to take ownership of their own learning and may wish to research or further investigate areas of interest and this will be wholly dependent on the child and therefore a time will be not be specified.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

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 needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

The role of parents

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 visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents would like ideas for additional home learning tasks, a weekly maths newsletter is supplied with post and pre-learning of the concepts taught which parents can investigate and explore further with their children.

In addition to this Apps to support home learning can be found on the newsletter as well as ideas via the school's twitter page by using the hashtag #wbjshomelearning.

If parents have any problems or questions about home learning, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher where a discussion can take place around the suitability of home learning given or if the parent requires additional learning activities for their child.

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.