



Home Learning Policy

Policy Control	
Responsible Person:	Amanda Norman
Responsible Governor Team:	Teaching and Learning
Approved by Governors:	September 2014
Date due for review:	September 2017

Our school policies are written with the objective of continuously improving the school in our aim of realising the school's vision:

Goudhurst & Kilndown Church of England Primary School will provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment rooted in Christian values in which every child will flourish. We will realise the potential of every child and instil a lifelong love of learning. Our approach to teaching and learning will be inclusive, supportive and innovative and will embrace new education initiatives and leading technology. We will ensure that our children are aware of the world in which they live, understand the need to play an active role within the local and wider community and appreciate the importance of living a sustainable way of life. In partnership with parents and carers, we will help our children to build high self-esteem, independence and resilience and to develop the life skills they need for their future in an ever-changing world.

Our School Values

Goudhurst and Kilndown Church of England Primary School values

Community • Friendship • Joy • Love • Peace • Trust

and all our stakeholders are encouraged to *reflect* upon their learning and their actions

In our school we provide a happy, safe environment for learning and working, where we encourage each other to do our best to achieve our goals!

Principles of home learning

There is no doubt that children are more likely to be successful learners when there is a strong partnership between home and school. Parents and Carers are the primary educators in the formative preschool years and a child learns so much from them. As children enter our school we work together to provide the best learning opportunities for all.

It is our aim that by the time children leave our school, to begin their secondary education; they should be independent learners who are ready for the challenges ahead, including the demands of secondary school homework.

As a church school we appreciate the importance of family and the special time families spend together on their hobbies and interests. We also understand that children will have other activities after school and at weekends and therefore we will ensure that where possible children have nearly a week to complete Home Learning task. This will allow families, children and teachers to plan their time accordingly.

We understand that families have very different views about Home Learning and believe this policy offers a good balance. Above all we stress that Home Learning should never become a 'battle' between child and parent.

The purpose of Home Learning

- To develop and maintain a consistent and effective partnership between the school and the parents, which reinforces our learning expectations alongside our shared individual pupil targets.
- To promote the enjoyment of shared learning experiences at home, and encourage pupils to exploit the wealth of resources available at home.
- To encourage the extension and consolidation of everyday learning to promote a desire for life-long learning.
- To encourage pupils to gain a sense of responsibility for their own learning, and to promote independent thinking, confidence, self-discipline and resilience.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of parents/carers

- In order for pupils to achieve the aims of our home learning policy, parents will be encouraged to provide a suitable setting and adequate time for the learning to take place.

- They will be encouraged to engage with the children in their learning, and provide appropriate support.
- They will be encouraged to value their children's learning, and celebrate effort

The role of children

- Children will be encouraged to be increasingly responsible for completion of home learning as they get older by being well organised, and prompt in the return of completed tasks.
- To take pride in a high standard of content and presentation, and make full use of all available opportunities open to them.

The role of teaching staff

- Teaching staff will provide a range of home learning tasks in line with the policy, to extend and consolidate pupil learning in class.
- Teaching staff will ensure pupils have a clear understanding of expectations.
- Teaching staff will communicate with parents, keeping them informed of pupil progress, pupil targets, current themes of learning and ways in which they can support their child.
- Teaching Staff will ensure homework is marked and children and parents receive brief feedback.

The role of the Headteacher

- The Headteacher will monitor the effectiveness of the policy and how it is implemented.

The role of governors

- The governors will evaluate the uptake and effectiveness of the policy through the parents' forums, pupil interview questionnaires, teacher's feedback.

Provision of Home Learning

From September 2014 Home Learning activities will follow the programme below:

	Daily	Weekly
Foundation Stage	Daily reading	Occasional tasks relevant to current learning in class.
Year 1	Daily reading	Weekly Learning Journal and/or maths activity.
Year 2	Daily reading	Weekly Learning Journal and maths activity.
Year 3	Daily reading	Weekly Learning Journal and maths activity.
Year 4	Daily reading	Weekly Learning Journal and maths activity.
Year 5	Daily reading	Weekly Learning Journal, Topic and maths activity.
Year 6	Daily reading	Weekly Learning Journal, Topic and maths activity.

Children will receive their home learning tasks weekly on a day agreed by their class teacher. The completed tasks should be returned to school the following week.

The DFE recommended time for children to spend on Home Learning is as follows:

Year R	(10 minutes per day)
Years 1 and 2	Up to 1 hour a week (in
Years 3 and 4	Up to 1½ hours a week
Years 5 and 6	Up to 2½ hours a week

Any difficulties with homework should be noted by the parent on the home learning sheet or discussed with the class teacher. Children should not exceed the expected completion times by more than a few minutes.

Home Learning Activities

Reading

Reading is a key skill that should be rehearsed daily. We hope to foster a love of books and reading both at school and at home. It is not possible for an adult to hear a child read at school every day. It is most important, therefore, for a parent or carer to try to hear their child read as often as possible, to discuss the plot and characterisation and ask the child questions about what has been read. Younger children need to be heard on a regular daily basis, older children may however be expected to read a variety of material independently and silently to themselves.

English, phonics and SPAG

This may include; learning key vocabulary, learning spelling patterns from a phonics lesson or SPAG lesson, or learning other commonly used words, completing a comprehension exercise or a piece of writing relating to the current learning in class.

Maths

This could include a maths game, learning some number facts (e.g. doubles, halves, bonds to 20), learning tables, completing some additional practice of the topic currently being taught or a problem solving exercise, some Abacus online work or an MA page.

Topic based

This could include some research about a current topic in science, history or geography, some design work in art or DT or a piece of writing that relates to current learning.