



GOLDFINCH PRIMARY
Building Excellence

2019/20

Home Learning Policy

Spring 2020

Next Review Date: Spring 2021

Signed: Chair of IEB

Head Teacher

Home Learning

An effective, well-managed home learning programme helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Home learning also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.

At Goldfinch Primary School, we recognise the vital role parents play in their children's learning. We strongly believe in the value of a home-school partnership, of which our Home Learning Policy is an important element.

However, it is important that home learning does not become a source of confrontation or friction between parents and children. Home learning is most successful when parents take a genuine interest, are supportive and organise the home environment so that effective home learning can take place.

At Goldfinch Primary School, we believe in the importance of children developing as well-rounded, balanced individuals and have designed our Home Learning Policy to reflect this. Whilst home learning is important it should not be at the detriment of other activities that children may wish to participate in such as Brownies, Cubs, sports activities and independent play.

What is Home Learning?

At Goldfinch Primary School, home learning refers to any activities which children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with their families.

Aims of our Home Learning Policy

Through our Policy we aim to:

- provide opportunities for families, children and the school to work in partnership
- encourage a positive attitude to work
- consolidate and extend learning experiences
- improve the quality of learning experiences offered to the children
- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding of our expectations in relation to the children's learning
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility

Expectations

Teachers will:

- be consistent in their implementation of the Policy
- set the agreed home learning on a regular basis
- acknowledge the home learning and discuss it with the children/share it with the class when appropriate.
- set home learning which takes account of different interests, opportunities and levels of ability

- take into account pupils' access to resources when setting tasks i.e. computers and the Internet
- set home learning which is part of the planned curriculum
- plan home learning alongside normal termly plans
- ensure that children know exactly what is expected of them

Children will:

- be given guidance on how to do a piece of home learning
- be expected to do their home learning when asked
- take an active role in their own learning
- become independent and take responsibility for their work
- make effective use of time

We would like families to:

- provide their child with a quiet place for doing home learning
- set aside time for their child to do home learning
- be interested in their child's home learning
- encourage their child to use whatever resources are available to them, including visits to libraries, museums etc.

Guidelines for Home Learning

The following guidelines outline the day-to-day implementation of our Home Learning Policy.

English and Maths (KS1 and KS2)

- Children will be given a piece of Maths home learning each week and on occasions may also be given a piece of home learning linked to an aspect of what they have been learning in English.
- Additionally, in Maths, all children will be set targeted Multiplication facts and Division facts that are appropriate for their Year Group (please note, all pupils must know their multiplication facts by the mid (point of Year 4).
- In Year 6, children will receive a piece of Maths, English and Spelling Home Learning each week.
- All home learning will be **handed out by Friday** and should be **returned the following Wednesday**.
- Home learning will relate to the work the children are doing in class, i.e. addition/multiplication; target sentences etc.
- As always, we encourage parents/guardians to help their children.
- The children's home learning will be marked regularly.

EYFS

Children will be given a curriculum update which will include one piece of home learning to complete over the weekend. They will be sent home on a Friday and the task will help to consolidate the learning that has taken place at school that week. It will link to the current theme or aim to further develop specific areas of the Early

Years curriculum. These activities will be fun and active and something that should be enjoyed. We ask that it is completed over the weekend and returned to school on a Monday to enable the child to share their achievements with their friends.

Reading at home (including Early Years Foundation Stage)

- We encourage the children to read every night at home. In most cases, this will be the child reading to an adult on a one-to-one basis but, for variety, reading sessions can include listening to audio stories and listening to stories read by parents/guardians using a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- It is still vital for those children who can read to discuss the text with parents/guardians in order to extend their understanding. Children who read regularly to an adult make more progress than those who do not.
- Our Reading Record Books offer parents a two-way communication on children's reading progress.
- Children in the EYFS will be encouraged to read some key words on sight (i.e. recognise instantly). These words will be the most commonly occurring words in text in order to help them to read books with pace and accuracy. These words will occasionally be sent home with your child.

Spellings at home

- The quantity and frequency of spellings being sent home will vary from year group to year group. This will be communicated to parents at the Curriculum Meetings held at the beginning of each year. Weekly spellings will be given out in KS1 and in KS2.

Other Home Learning

- At the beginning of each new topic, class teachers will send home a grid of home learning activities based on the topic. These will consist of activities encompassing a range of learning styles. The styles offered will vary depending on year groups and the developmental needs of the children.
- Out of these activities, children will be encouraged to submit at least one piece of home learning per half term.
- As they are completed, children will bring evidence of the tasks into school to celebrate with their teachers and other children in their class.
- Teachers will respond to the children's home learning by displaying their home learning in the classroom or in the school.
- In preparation for the following half term, the children will bring home 'Knowledge Organisers' to outline the key knowledge and skills covered in topic lessons in the following half term. Families are encouraged to discuss and investigate this information in order to support their child's learning.

If parents wish their children to do extra home learning in addition to that set by the school, there are a number of websites and other resources available. Class teachers are able to advise if necessary.

This Policy is reviewed annually by the Leadership Team in conjunction with the Local Governing Body, Staff and Parents. This revised Policy was adopted formally in Spring 2020 and will be reviewed in Spring 2021.

