

Willow Tree Primary School



Learning at Home Policy

Rationale

At Willow Tree Primary School we aim to work in partnership with the home. Together, we aim to develop confident, self-motivated, well-balanced children who enjoy learning. We believe children learn best when the school and home work together.

Purposes

1. To encourage parents to support their children's learning through working together.
2. To reinforce and extend the learning taking place in the classroom.
3. Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school

Guidelines

Parents' regular and interested support in their child's development of language and literacy is a major factor in pupils' high achievement. We therefore ask all parents in particular to regularly support their child in this area by:

- ◆ sharing and talking about an appropriate book for about 10 minutes each night

In addition, teachers may also ask parents to help with other short tasks that are appropriate to the child's age group and/or their individual needs. These tasks may be given regularly or occasionally depending upon the needs of the child and professional opinion of the teachers in each year group. For example:

- ◆ Encouraging their child to practice the correct letter formation
- ◆ Helping their child learn letter sounds, words, or spellings
- ◆ Helping their child recognise number bonds
- ◆ Playing simple games related to these key skills
- ◆ Talking to their child about school topics

Homework is provided by each phase or year group in a project format. A letter is sent home to parents explaining the task, the success criteria and suggesting ideas. Children are encouraged to touch base with the teachers on a weekly 'reviewing my homework' session to develop areas for learning during the project. Pictures can be sent to the class e-mail to support discussions. A final date is always given for homework and often a celebration for parents will take place.

When a child has Special Educational Needs, the class teacher or Special Needs Co-ordinator will suggest appropriate homework tasks and/or simple games linked to their current learning targets if the learning at home task is inappropriate.

All parents can access the 'Learning at Home' pages on the school website which provide spellings and tables lists and ideas for each year group, together with ideas for parents to support their children's learning. All children have a login for 'SumDog' to support mental maths in KS1 and KS2 and spelling punctuation and grammar in KS2. This software is levelled for each child so work is appropriate.

There is no statutory obligation for Primary aged children to complete homework and no child will be discriminated against for not completing the 'Learning at Home' tasks.

Opportunities for feedback

There are a wide variety of opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to check that they are working in partnership:

- ◆ The Reading Record provides an opportunity for dialogue between home and school and parents are asked to make comments/sign when they have read with their child
- ◆ Parent Consultation Interviews are held twice a year, with appointments offered directly after school and during the early evening
- ◆ Open Mornings are held each half term for parents to come and look with their child at their books and the work they have completed in the classroom.
- ◆ Class teachers, the Head and the Special Educational Needs Coordinator are available to discuss aspects of learning at home and to provide advice. An appointment may need to be made if this query is to be answered fully
- ◆ Meetings for parents regarding the support of their child in reading and mathematics are offered at different points in their child's school life.

Conclusion

This policy will be judged to be effective when:

- 'Learning at Home' is a valuable shared experience between parents/carers and children.
- Children complete their tasks and reinforce or extend their learning.