St James CE Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Approved: September 2026.
Reviewed: September 2027.

Home Learning Policy

Home learning is valued at St James Church of England Primary School by both staff and parents and is a statutory part of the curriculum. By setting home learning, we intend to develop a strong and mutually supportive home-school partnership which keeps parents involved with their children's education. Home learning can be described as anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. This encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by both teachers and parents.

Aims:

Home learning will help to reinforce skills and promote understanding. The main purpose is to practise, consolidate and reinforce the learning that the children achieve in class – please note that nothing sent home will be new learning. Instead, it is an opportunity to extend learning and promote interest which will lead to the improvement of standards. A key Journey Driver is for children to develop their 'Resilience and Perseverance.' We believe that our approach to home learning is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the attributes to become lifelong learners and develop positive learning behaviours.

Our approach aims to ensure that:

- Pupils are enabled to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- There is a consistent approach for all stakeholders to the setting of home learning throughout school.
- Home learning is meaningful and accessible to all pupils.
- Parents are informed of what their child is learning and can be involved.
- There is a progressive approach towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Learning is extended to the home with a strong home-school partnership.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Class Teacher will:

1. Manage the children's home learning and ensure that there is a regular pattern of home learning.
2. Set the home learning according to the school's agreed timetable and the needs of the children.
3. Send home set tasks in line with the agreed timetable. This will be each Friday for teacher set tasks.
4. Set home learning that is inclusive adapting tasks accordingly to ensure that all pupils can contribute in a positive way.
5. Provide home learning that consolidates work carried out in class.

The Curriculum Leader will:

1. Be responsible for the overall management of the home learning system.
2. Ensure adequate resources are available.
3. Inform parents of their responsibility in the home-school partnership.
4. Monitor the effectiveness and impact of the home learning policy and set procedures.

Parents and Carers are asked to:

1. Provide a suitable time and place for home learning to be done.
2. Encourage the child to complete home learning.
3. Praise their child for completion and success.

Children will

1. Accept and understand the importance of home learning tasks.
2. Be organised and ensure they take home necessary books and equipment.
3. Be responsible for completing home study tasks on time.

Reward and Recognition:

When any Home Learning is completed, this should be brought into school and/or recorded in a home/school diary. Children who have completed a range of home learning across the week can be awarded up to three dojos at staff discretion.

When home learning is brought into school, staff may also use learning as an assessment tool and will provide individual support upon request.

Home Learning Tasks:

Pupils are expected to complete home learning tasks on a weekly basis. Across the school, home study works in exactly the same way with clear tasks set on a weekly basis.

1.) Reading:

In all year groups, we recommend that pupils read every night for between 15-30 minutes. We have a minimum expectation of reading four times each week at home.

We request that all children have their reading book every day in school as there are many opportunities to read within the school day. We encourage children to read with parents, independently and also to be read to by parents. We also promote the use of online reading resources wherever possible. All of these reading experiences are vital to extending learning and instilling a love of reading for pleasure. All reading activities should be recorded in the Home/School Diary.

In addition to this, staff may choose to set additional reading comprehension that is appropriately matched to children's reading ability. This will be from agreed sources such as Literacy Shed Plus.

2.) Spelling:

In Year 1, a small number of common exception words are sent home each week to practice. This should be done in a fun and practical way.

From Year 2 and Year 6, formal spelling lessons are taught in school 3 times per week. Consequently, spellings (taken directly from Ready Steady Spell) are provided to children on a Friday to take home. These will then be assessed by the class teacher on the Thursday of the following week to assess retrieval of learning. In Y2, this will be bi-weekly.

3.) Maths

Pupils in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 have access to Numbots while children in Y2-Y6 have access to Times Table Rockstars. In support of this, pupils have been given their own username and password and we expect them to access this resource regularly. Login details can be found in their home/school diary.

In all year groups, maths arithmetic questions (that are set at an age appropriate level) are also set as retrieval of previous learning. This is set to be achievable for all children with answers provided at the class teacher's discretion.

4.) Further Home Learning Tasks:

	Recommended Time Allocation for Homework: (Government Guidance).	**Possible Additional Home Learning Tasks:**	**Learning Apps:**
Nursery. Reception.	5-10 minutes a day. 25-50 minutes weekly.	Further tasks may be set to ensure that children 'know more and remember more' across the curriculum. These are set at the class teacher's discretion to support learning within the classroom. These will be set no more than once a half-term. When this is the case, further information (such as a *knowledge organiser* or clear instructions) are always provided. On occasions, *projects* may also be set (no more than once per term). Please see additional guidance below.	Teach your Monster to Read.
Year 1.	1 hour a week.		Teach your Monster to Read. Numbots (5-10 minutes daily).
Year 2.	1 hour a week.		Times Table Rockstars (5-10 minutes daily).
Year 3. **Year 4.**	15 minutes day. 1.5 hours weekly.		Times Table Rockstars (5-10 minutes daily).
Year 5. **Year 6.**	30 minutes a day. 2.5 hours weekly.		Times Table Rockstars (5-10 minutes daily).

What is a Knowledge Organiser?

A knowledge organiser is a document that contains key facts and information that children need to have a basic knowledge and understanding of a topic. Our knowledge organisers will include the essential facts about the topic, laid out in easy-to-digest chunks; key vocabulary or technical terms and their meanings (we call this vital vocabulary); images such as maps or diagrams; and famous quotations, if relevant. What a knowledge organiser includes will depend on the subject. For example, an 'Egyptians' knowledge organiser and a 'Rivers' knowledge organiser would both include maps, but the former would also include a timeline, and the latter would need diagrams.

We all want children to gain specific knowledge in each curriculum subject that builds up over time. Independent study based on the content of the knowledge organiser has been proven to make learning 'sticky' and deepens knowledge accrued over time.

Projects

At times, teachers will ask for children to complete projects based on their learning. Clear information and an outline will always be provided by class teachers. Projects usually take the form of practical activities such as model making, crafts, fact files, PowerPoint presentations.

Support for Parents:

Class teachers are able to signpost parents to support mechanisms for class home learning e.g. websites, strategies and answers. We also encourage attendance at our events, such as parent coffee morning, to support your child's learning at home.

Home/School Diaries

Each child will be provided with a Home/School Diary. These diaries are an essential means of communication between school and home. In addition to weekly communication pages, these diaries contain many reference pages (related to maths, spellings, maps, music, science etc.) which allow children to conduct further learning.

Home learning forms part of our Home/School Agreement which is located within the Home/School diary and should be understood by parent/guardians confirming their understanding. if Home/School Diaries are lost or damaged, a replacement charge of £3.50 will be requested.