

Fleetville Infant & Nursery School



Home Learning Policy

January 2026

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Home Learning Policy

Context

Children are at their most receptive during the primary years, and indeed for the first few years of their lives do all their learning at home. We appreciate that all parents and carers are the child's first teachers and want to extend this relationship of mutual support through homework/home learning.

In supporting your child's home learning, not only are you supporting their learning but raising their achievement and self-esteem through the interest you take in their work. At home, time spent with a child is the best possible investment for that child's future development

A gradually extending programme of work which children are expected to complete out of school emphasises the principle that learning takes place everywhere.

Statutory requirements

There is no legal requirement that compels a school to set homework, or any requirement about what that homework should be. However, if homework is set, Ofsted says it needs to be appropriate for the needs of the pupils and the teachers should set challenging homework, appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils well for work to come.

Rationale and content

Homework is a valuable part of our educational provision but we will only set it to promote specific learning, not just as a routine expectation.

Similarly we recognise that time and resources can be limited at home and other activities sometimes have to take priority. However any additional support given at home is valuable to a child's learning.

Although we would never treat a child negatively for not returning homework, we would always encourage its return. This shows the value we place on learning at home and sets up good habits and expectations for their future education.

What is home learning?

We believe there are two major strands to home learning:-

- *Activities which parents and carers do with their children or children do on their own which is then shared with the school in some way.*
- *Activities which are set by the school.*

Why is home learning important?

1. *It can help to enhance the learning and development of the whole child by:*

- Providing activities that are planned and linked to the age related expectations of the curriculum.
- Encouraging independence and developing positive learning attitudes such as perseverance, completion of tasks, practice and reinforcement.
- Developing learning skills to increase the capacity for learning such as research skills, memory skills, collaborative skills and presentation skills.
- Exploiting materials and sources of information not accessible in the classroom.
- Exploiting the advantageous one to one relationship available at home.
- Preparing older children for the discipline of completing homework which will be required for Secondary School.
- Taking into account any particular needs of individual children.

2. Enhance the parents' role as continuing educators and in doing so further develop the partnership between home and school. The school supports this by:

- Holding parents' meetings and curriculum meetings
- Providing ideas for activities.
- Sharing planning and curriculum information with parents through the website, half termly home learning leaflets and other appropriate means.
- Informally advising parents.
- Running parent workshops.
- Holding open days on curriculum areas
- Providing information through available websites.
- Making every effort to involve all families that make up our rich and diverse school community.
- Annual year group handbooks.

Activities directed by the School

These activities are not intended to be burdensome or take too long. Each child will engage at different levels, but the intention is always to consolidate learning which has taken place at school. It is also an important opportunity for children to celebrate and show you what they know and can do.

Specific homework activities may vary. Appendix 1 indicates the range of activities that characteristically occur in our school. Some children will work quicker than others and get more done in less time.

At no point do we intend for children to feel under pressure or get upset by the home learning. If parents have any concerns regarding this, they should speak to their child's teacher.

The value of the home learning is in the process the children go through with the support of their parents. They will bring their work back to school so the teacher can assess their understanding and plan next steps in learning

Skills for Learning

Fleetville Infant & Nursery School has a strong focus on developing learning behaviours through our **"Learning Powers"** and enabling a **"Super Turtle"** mind set. The main areas we have identified, which when developed, help children learn to learn are:

- Speaking and Listening
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development, including self-esteem.
- Thinking Skills
- Perseverance and determination (Super Turtle)
- 4Bees (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, Be Kind)

What do these skills look like?

- Demonstrating personal responsibility and independence.
- Being able to sit quietly and attend to the task in a class, a group or individually.
- Being able to articulate accounts and feelings. Use talk for learning.
- Engaging with tasks and listening carefully to instructions and information given.
- Choosing, finding and using books, equipment and materials they need for the task.
- Using the skills they have already learned to help solve new problems.
- Recognising their strengths and areas to work on; demonstrating resilience.
- Reasoning and explaining choices they make.
- Knowing what to do when stuck in solving problems.
- Completing tasks in time allocated.
- Evaluating work completed or in progress.
- Demonstrating pride and ownership in work.

Appendix 1

Activities to be carried out at home directed by the school –

To be read in conjunction with the half-termly Learning Leaflets for Parents which detail ideas for supporting learning at home and aid pre-learning.

	Reading	Speaking and Listening	Phonics, Spelling and Literacy	Maths	Other
<u>Nursery</u> Homework is to establish a home-school partnership	Read stories with your child and ask questions about what they can see and hear	Encourage speaking in complete sentences. Encourage conversation. Discuss what your child likes/dislikes, their opinions	Sing songs and rhymes Listen out for different sounds.	Sing counting songs and rhymes Look for shapes and patterns	<u>Personal and Social</u> Encourage independence and self-help skills like putting on coats and shoes, going to the toilet, washing hands Play games that demonstrate and encourage sharing
<u>Reception</u> Homework is to consolidate classwork and to establish a home-school partnership	Home reading regularly, a few minutes every night sharing books, simple comics and magazines for pleasure	Make time to talk and encourage conversation Listen patiently and encourage longer Conversations, modelling complete sentences Ask and answer questions Listen to and join in with rhymes and	Phonics weekly to include; Learning words with simple spelling patterns Learning Tricky words (which can't be sounded out phonetically) Letter formation	Look for numbers, shape and pattern in the environment Ask questions and solve problems!	Follow up ideas on the learning Leaflet for parents <u>Personal and Social</u> Encourage independence and self-help skills
<u>Year 1</u> Homework is to reinforce classwork and to use the family as a resource	Home reading regularly, every day to include books from school and / or a variety of other reading materials	Play with sounds Take turns in conversations and encourage listening Play language games – like 'I-Spy', '20 questions', 'What am I?' 'Continue the story' – you start a story, the children carry on.	Phonics weekly to include; Learning words with simple spelling patterns Learning Tricky words (which can't be sounded out phonetically) Letter formation	-Maths activity once a week from Spring term. Encourage application of maths skills in everyday situations	Follow up ideas on the learning Leaflet for parents
<u>Year 2</u> Homework is to support classwork and to use the family as a resource	Home reading regularly, to include books from school and / or a variety of other reading materials. More focus on comprehension and questioning	Take turns in conversations and encourage listening Enjoy telling jokes and encourage the re-telling of them.	-Learning Year 2 key words sight vocabulary -Spellings	Maths activity once a week Encourage application of maths skills in everyday situations	Follow up ideas on the learning Leaflet for parents