

Ursula Taylor C of E School



Home Learning Policy

Rationale

At Ursula Taylor we value highly our children's educational journey and wish to provide children and parents with opportunities for purposeful and relevant out of school learning. We place great importance on children having a broad and balanced childhood experience, we recognise and support the importance of time spent with family members and also attending out of school clubs and organisations.

At UTS we see out of school learning as complementary to the work children are completing in class. Our topic based curriculum allows many valuable opportunities for children to take their learning in any direction they wish, as well as becoming enthused and engaged by the learning process. It also gives parents who wish to become more involved in their child's learning, opportunities to support their child with their tasks.

As a school we feel strongly that out of school learning must have a clear link to class work, be built around a range of skills and learning styles so all our children regardless of ability are included, and that work produced is highly valued within the school environment. We want our out of school learning to be enjoyable and appealing and to be seen as something children choose to do not feel obliged to complete.

This policy has been written as a result of consultation with Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors at Ursula Taylor School. All stakeholders' opinions have been considered and used to formulate a policy that provides continuity and progression throughout all year groups.

Aims

- To complement the school curriculum with engaging activities
- To make school expectations clear and provide continuity for all children in the school
- To ensure the importance of regular reading at home and to promote the enjoyment of reading and sharing books.
- To provide opportunities for learning in a variety of ways to allow all children to access the activity
- To value children's home learning in the school environment

- To offer parents the opportunity to become more involved in their children's learning
- To provide parents with ideas for activities so they can decide the frequency and amount of work their child completes
- To find a balance between home learning and children's commitments out of school
- To ensure children still have plenty of opportunities for relaxation and important family time

Reading

Hearing children read, and reading to children at home is essential to encourage children to share and develop their passion for reading, increase their phonic awareness and extend their comprehension skills. At UTS we place a great deal of importance on nurturing a child's imagination and developing a love of books. We also encourage children to read widely across a range of genres including; signs, magazines, newspapers, leaflets, shopping receipts, texts and web site content.

See the Reading Policy for more information.

Spelling

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 have provision in place for a daily 30 minute session following the DfE Letters and Sounds Publication. This coverage ensures all children experience phonics in the form of reading and spelling in great depth. KS1 children do not receive weekly spellings to learn at home, although are provided with lists of High Frequency Words and tricky words for parents to practise with their children.

In Key Stage 2 children will receive spellings on a weekly basis following different spelling patterns and topic related vocabulary, these will be differentiated according to children's individual needs and stages of development.

Numeracy

At the start of each Term a skills booklet will be sent home giving information for parents to use to support their child's Numeracy development. These booklets will be based on the National Curriculum Level that the child is working at. The booklet contains ideas for games, activities and areas to work on at home.

In addition to this:

Foundation Stage children have their 'Next Steps' for Numeracy and are encouraged to try out skills at home and bring things into school to share with their peers.

KS1 have half termly Numeracy targets using the 'Must, Should, Could' layered target approach. These focus on key skills to be covered at school and also give parents an opportunity to practice them at home. There is also an opportunity for parents to feed back by completing the 'I can' grid.

KS2 have weekly Numeracy activities based on in school learning. These will be a mixture of practical activities, mental Numeracy skills and paper based tasks where appropriate.

Each child has a 'Learning Journal' which contains their reading record, Numeracy activities and individual targets for Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Science. This is also used as a Home/School communication book.

Topic Work

As a Creative Curriculum school we use a topic based approach to provide a wide range of learning opportunities. Children are encouraged to find out information at home, and bring things from home into school to share. Each term the children are given a Topic based take home task to complete during the term. This task can be completed in different ways chosen by the child. Each term the children will be given a leaflet giving information about the topic coming up that term and suggestions for home learning. There will also be age appropriate websites and suitable books that can be accessed from the public library. All work completed by the children is valued and shared at school and is often used as a resource within class lessons. Each classroom has a designated space to display the projects created at home.

Home Learning Opportunities

Foundation Stage	Reading 3 x weekly. Daily practise of sounds and tricky words. Topic related tasks and 'Can you...' activities, based on individual children and opportunities during lessons. Values take home task (1 x monthly). 'Newsflash' and Next Steps information.
Year 1	Reading Daily x 10 minutes Half Termly Numeracy 'I can...' sheets and layered targets. Values take home task (1 x monthly) High Frequency and tricky word spelling Termly Topic Take Home task
Year 2	Reading minimum of 10 mins 3 x weekly Half Termly Numeracy 'I can...' sheets and layered targets. Values take home task (1 x monthly) High Frequency and tricky word spelling Termly Topic Take Home task
Year 3	Reading minimum of 10 mins 3 x weekly Weekly Numeracy activity Weekly Spellings Values take home task (1 x monthly) Termly Topic Take Home task
Year 4	Reading minimum of 10 mins 3 x weekly Weekly Numeracy activity Weekly Spellings Values take home task (1 x monthly) Termly Topic Take Home task

Equal Opportunities/Inclusion

We aim to achieve high standards of attainment for all pupils from all ethnic backgrounds and of different socio-economic statuses, ensuring that pupils are treated with respect and supported to achieve their full potential. We ensure that no pupil is prevented from accessing activities as part of our Home Learning Opportunities because of financial or other reasons.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)/Gifted and Talented.

At UTS we ensure we strive to meet the individual needs of all our children. The tasks and activities provided as a Home Learning Opportunity will take into account children's individual needs by differentiating appropriately and providing support where required.

Monitoring

Home Learning will be monitored on a termly basis by the Senior Leadership Team. Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors will be consulted during the monitoring and evaluation process.

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