Home Learning Policy 2026/27

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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 Albemarle 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 Albemarle 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 Albemarle 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 and support to complete it
- encourage their child to use whatever resources are available to them, including visits to libraries, museums etc.

Guidelines for Home Learning

The following guidelines explain how home learning is organised at Albemarle.

English and Maths – Key Stages 1 and 2

- Children in **Year 1 will begin receiving home learning from Autumn 2.**
- Children will receive a piece of **Maths home learning each week,** linked to learning in class.
- Children may also be given number facts to practise at home. This may include **counting in Key Stage 1** and **multiplication and division facts in Key Stage 2**, appropriate to their year group. All children are expected to know their multiplication tables by the **end of Year 4.**
- Children will be given **spelling words to practise at home**. These will have been introduced in school and children will be taught strategies to help them learn them.
- Home learning will be **given out by Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday**.
- In **Year 6**, children will receive Maths, English, Reading and Spelling home learning each week. This should be completed by **Thursday**, with answers reviewed together in class on Friday.
- We encourage parents and carers to support and encourage their children with home learning where needed.
- Home learning will be reviewed and marked regularly by staff.

Home Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage

In Nursery, there is no formalised homework.

Each Friday, Early Years teachers send home a learning letter which outlines what the class have been learning in phonics, maths, and literacy or another area of the EYFS curriculum for that week. The letter also suggests optional learning activities families can engage with at home to support or build upon learning in school.

In Reception each child is given a sound booklet. This booklet contains the first sounds that your child will learn in phonics. It is important that your child completes the sounds in order,

and only two per week, as this will support and consolidate your child's learning in school. There are specific dates on the contents page to inform you when the sound booklets are due in. Please ensure that your child's Sound Book is in their book bag on these dates. Please refer to your child's Google Classroom learning platform to watch the correct pronunciation of the sounds.

Early years children will all receive a Google Classroom log in and password in their reading record book. This is an online platform where we will upload relevant learning websites and videos to support your child in the correct pronunciation of phonics sounds. This will also be where you can upload photos and videos for your child for 'show and tell' and special days out that they wish to share with the class during whole class show and tell sessions.

Reading at home (including Early Years Foundation Stage)

- We encourage children to enjoy reading and stories at home for around 10−20 minutes each night. 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 support comprehension skills.. 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. Families should write in their child's reading records at least 5 times per week. In Year 5 and 6 children are encouraged to write in their reading record book every evening but this should still be checked by a parent/carer at least once a week.
- As part of reading, children in KS2 may also be given a weekly comprehension task to complete.

Other Home Learning

- During Pupil Review Meetings in Autumn and Spring, parents/carers will receive a document outlining year group specific maths 'KIRFs' (key instant recall facts) and year group spelling words. These materials are intended for parents/carers to use at home with their child. There is no requirement for parents/carers to prepare their child for tests using these resources.
- At certain times of the year, the school may run whole school homework competitions. For example, for STEM week the home learning challenge might be to design a poster about an inspirational scientist.

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 Curriculum Committee in October 2026.