

Home Learning Policy

December 2009, December 2012, December 2015, November 2018

Home learning is an area where parents and carers can actively support and be involved in the learning that is undertaken by their child. Home learning is any activity, designed to support learning beyond the classroom.

At Linwood we believe that a programme of home learning actively supported by parents / carers can make a significant contribution to pupil's learning.

The purposes of home learning are to:

- check that the pupils have understood their class learning
- consolidate or extend previous or current class learning
- prepare for future lessons
- provide an opportunity for either independent or supported work at home
- help pupils understand that extra study can result in higher achievement
- help parents feel more directly involved with their child's progress
- assist in meeting the demands of the school's external accreditation programme
- raise self esteem
- support achievement of targets within PLPs and additional therapy programmes
- generalise skills learnt in school in a range of contexts.

Foundation Stage

In the Nursery / Reception classes we aim to work as closely as possible with parents/carers.

We believe that it is important for all parents, carers and families to be fully involved in sharing and supporting the learning that their child does at school.

Each pupil will be provided with their own Linwood School bag (Not at Springwood and Littlewood) and a copy of the home school communication book to support daily communication.

At the start of each term a curriculum newsletter will be sent home to parents/carers. This will provide information about learning through topics and suggest practical ideas of how parents/carers can help at home or when out and about in the community.

Termly 'Stay and Play' sessions are an opportunity to share ideas with parents/carers about how learning can be supported at home.

Parents/carers are encouraged to share books with their child; this is a perfect time for a cuddle and to talk about the pictures they can see.

Occasionally there will be a request for parents/carers to send something in from home related to the topic. Parents/carers are encouraged to record 'WOW' moments on the WOW sheet; staff will then add these to the child's learning journal.

Each pupil will have a Personalised Learning Plan which is shared with parents/carers to promote a home school partnership.

If pupils have a Physiotherapy, Speech and Language or Occupational Therapy programme, these will also be shared with parents/carers so that the programmes can be followed at home. Symbols may be made at school and given to those who need them to help with daily routines and communication.

Primary Phase/Alma Classes

Our partnership with parents/carers continues throughout the Primary Phase and we welcome support with regards to home learning.

At the start of each term a curriculum newsletter will be sent home to parents/carers. This will provide information about learning through topics and will suggest practical ideas of how parents/carers can help at home or when out and about in the community

At the beginning of the school year class teachers will send home a home school communication book. In the book parents/carers will find suggested fun and practical learning activities to help with learning across the curriculum. Where appropriate for students, homework is set linked to what the child is learning in class or on a topic of interest.

We encourage parents/carers to share reading books on a regular basis with their child, record what has been read and add any comments in the home school communication book.

Parents/carers are asked to note down events and send in photos about what has happened at the weekend or during the holidays so that this can be shared with the rest of the class.

Each pupil has a Personalised learning Plan which is shared with parents/carers to promote a home school partnership.

If pupils have a Physiotherapy, Speech and Language or Occupational Therapy programme, these will also be shared with parents/carers so that the programmes can be followed at home. Symbols will be made at school and given to those who need them to help with daily routines and communication.

Secondary Phase

The Senior Phase welcomes support from parents and carers with regard to home learning and encourages all parents /carers to be actively involved in supporting their son's / daughter's progress by helping to reinforce areas of learning and development that take place in school.

There are three main ways in which home learning are generally undertaken:

- Practical on-going learning opportunities that take place in everyday experiences that reinforce the link between what is learnt at school and real life. Details of the learning programme and suggestions for such activities are sent home in the class newsletter each term and may be supplemented through the home school book.
- Daily engagement in literacy based activities* where parents/carers engage with their son/daughter or encourage them to participate in literacy activities wherever possible. A guide time of 15 minutes is suggested but duration will very much depend on individual needs.
- Learning tasks that relate to work in class, set by the class teacher through the home/school book. The duration and frequency of learning tasks will depend on individual needs but a guide would be 30 minutes as and when appropriate for KS3, increasing to 45 minutes more regularly at KS4.

* can include spelling, shared reading, being read to, private reading and other catch-up reading or writing activities

Post 16

Learning at home is encouraged to support the individual student's lifelong learning.

Parents/carers are encouraged to extend the work that is carried out in school especially in terms of enabling the students to become more independent and developing life skills. Activities might include helping to lay the table, washing up, preparing dinner, crossing roads, setting personal goals etc.

In Post 16 students are encouraged to handle money and we encourage parents/carers to continue to do this in the local community; purchasing goods for themselves, making requests in shops and finding the correct money.

Students who need to progress further with their literacy and numeracy skills may also be given extra work for home to help them consolidate their learning. Students where possible should try to do this work independently but in some cases may need some support from those at home. If parents/carers do support their child with their home learning then we ask parents/carers to put a short note in the home school book to let staff know so that these skills are built upon. This work may include reading, spellings and using simple sums and money.

If parents/carers notice their child demonstrating and using new skills at home then we ask that parents/carers share this with staff via the home school communication book as this can count towards their assessment and is something to celebrate in school.

If learning at home is not completed then teachers will liaise with parents/carers to encourage future support.