

Reviewed By	Annette Hixon	Policy Owner	October 2018
Ratified by	Peter Gould	Governor	October 2018
NEXT REVIEW			October 2020

At Shirley Junior School, we believe that home learning is important and can help children to become more effective learners.

Definition

At Shirley Junior School we view home learning as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

Purpose

The purposes of home learning at Shirley Junior School are:

- to enable children to practise and consolidate basic skills required to make good progress at school,
- to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, become independent learners and develop perseverance when mastering essential basic skills.
- to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension,
- to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child’s learning,

Range of Home Learning Activities

- Reading,
- Reading reflection based on reading skills
- Learning and mastering curriculum Spelling
- learning and mastering at speed Times table
- Half termly Independent research

When home learning is set

Across the school, home learning is reviewed weekly. Some longer projects may be set where children have several weeks to complete a structured task teachers will guide children about the best way to approach these projects.

A set of spellings are sent home every half term for children to be working on every week, and a spelling activities booklet gives them ideas for activities. The spellings are tested at the end of the half term and pupils are to have mastered these spellings.

Children are expected to read at least four times of week, recording their reading reflection in their planners. Guidance on how to reflect on reading will be given by the teacher.

We also expect children to be practising their 1-12 times tables at home daily – Online Rock Stars program is set up for all pupils as well as suggested activities in the planners.

Parents are encouraged to sign the children’s planners weekly.

Year 6

In preparation for end of Key Stage Tests and moving on to secondary school, pupils in Year 6 will be set further home learning for maths, reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation. It is recommended that pupils use revision books as well to support learning. Further information will be given to all Year 6 parents in the Spring term.

Feedback

- Teachers will check and respond to reading and reading reflections weekly in all pupils' planners.
- Weekly checks, praise and rewards will be given for pupils accessing Times Tables Rock Stars.
- Teachers will make assessments of pupil progress in Times Tables through a weekly Test using Big Maths Beat That.
- Children will receive feedback from teachers following a half termly spelling test and evidence of applying set words in their writing in class.
- Improvement of both Times Table and Spelling scores will be communicated to parents through planners.
- Oral feedback may be given in class when the home learning links directly with learning children are doing in class, home Learning project will be displayed in school.

Targeted Home Learning

- Sometimes children can find it difficult to complete home learning at home, and in these cases we make space, time and facilities available to them during the school day for them to complete their home learning at school.
- Identified pupils will be given access to Mathletics. This will be to ensure these pupils continue to make good progress in all areas of maths. These pupils will be expected to take part in an extra session of Home Learning each week to support their learning in school.

How can parents help?

- Provide a quiet area where your child can work. It is helpful to switch off the TV to aid concentration,
- Offer your help and support for younger children to complete tasks,
- Expect older children to work independently, but make it clear that you are there if needed,
- Encourage your children to practice often for small amounts of time, this will ensure pupils master these skills of spelling and Timetables,
- Check your child's planner regularly,
- Take an interest in the home learning projects and encourage your child to take a pride in the presentation of written tasks. Work should be handwritten by your child in pencil or a suitable handwriting pen, unless directed otherwise by your child's class teacher, and titles and subheadings should be underlined using a ruler,
- Listen to your child read every night, as well as reading to them and discussing books.
- Encourage them to discuss the story, writing questions they have or reflection. See more guidance for parents in your child's planner,
- Practise times tables with your child, by chanting the tables, asking them questions (what is 6 lots of 8?), getting them to test you and check your answers.