

St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation

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ADOPTED 13 OCTOBER 2020

REVIEW SEPTEMBER 2023

Home Learning Policy

Our Vision is to raise the aspiration of all pupils to “Be the Very Best they can Be”, through providing an engaging and Christian environment alongside an exciting broad and balanced curriculum striving to develop the skills, attitudes and Christian values of the whole Federation Community to face the new challenges of the 21st century with confidence.

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Introduction

St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation (which is referred to as the Federation in the rest of this document) Home Learning Policy has been devised to support and contribute to the pupil's progress during their school life.

We believe that if children strive to put their best effort into all they do and use the talents that God has given then wisely (as Jesus taught in the parable of the talents) then this will enable them to live life in all its fullness and "Be the best they can be".

The Purpose of Home Learning

- To develop an effective partnership between the schools within the Federation and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the Federation.
- To improve children's study skills and exploit resources for learning.
- To extend children's learning e.g. additional reading, writing and maths work.
- To develop children's organisational and time management skills and give them the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own.

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the Federation.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, pupils and their school to work in partnership and to find value in the partnership.
- Encourage pupils to develop long term strategies for future needs.
- At Year 6, to prepare pupils for secondary education.

Our approach to home learning will, of course, vary, according to the age of the pupils. However, one thing remains constant. If pupils are encouraged and supported at home, with positive attitudes to do their very best at all times, and take a pride in their work, whatever their ability, they will continue to develop and improve.

The Federation School's websites contain useful guides on how we teach maths and literacy including how we teach children to read.

All pupils from year 1 will have a Home Learning Book. These will be provided by the Class Teacher. Home Learning is optional within Reception, but we would ask parents/carers to support the Federation in developing a positive attitude to home learning and the benefits it has on children's learning.

Home Learning Activities for each Key Stage

At the start of each term, at class planning meetings, Class Teachers will outline home learning expectations and routines. Below is an outline of what can be expected.

Early Years – Reception

For our youngest pupils our prime purpose in setting activities is to develop a partnership with parents/carers and to involve them actively in their children's learning.

Reading

As soon as the children start school, they will be encouraged to take books home daily, to share with their family. As the children develop towards reading, phonics-based activities will also be sent home. This reading is recorded in a reading record booklet. Each completed reading record booklet triggers a reading certificate, presented in assembly.

Maths

The Federation provides each child with access to an online maths tool, Mathletics to assist in their learning. Mathletics reinforces what is being taught in the classroom and allows children to develop mathematical ideas. Each child will be given login and password details for the site and a variety of activities will be available for children to do (with help from parents/carers in those early stages). As children progress through Reception, challenges maybe set by the Class Teacher.

The Federation's Calculation Policy is available either via the School Office or School Website. It provides parents/carers with detailed information of how the Federation teaches maths at each stage.

Writing

Activity Sheets may be sent home to enable children to practice their writing of both letters and numbers. Examples maybe activity books, phonics-based words, counting objects or colouring activities to practice pencil control.

Key Stage One

The purpose of home learning in Key Stage One is to enrich the learning experience for our pupils.

Reading

As children progress with their reading, books will be sent home for children to read daily to a parent/carer. A broad selection of reading books will be sent home. Parents are encouraged to discuss the text, meanings of words, ask children to think about what might happen next or what parts of the story they liked or disliked and why. This reading is recorded in a reading record booklet. Each completed reading record booklet triggers a reading certificate, presented in assembly.

Maths

A continued use of Mathematics.

Spellings

High Frequency Words or Common Exception Words will be sent home to practice.

Home Learning Books

Children will be provided with Home Learning Books which each term will have a Home Learning Menu, (selection of activities relating to that term's classroom learning). These activities range from writing, maths, Information Technology and science. They are provided to allow children to choose an activity they wish to undertake.

From time to time additional home learning activities may be set i.e. during holidays or specific topic related activities.

Key Stage Two

At this stage we still expect that parents/carers will be actively involved in their children's learning, but that some work involves the children working independently and for more sustained periods (depending on the age of the child).

Reading

It remains our expectation that all children will read at home on a daily basis even once they have achieved independent reader status. Parents/carers are encouraged to further discuss the text its meaning and use of expression whilst reading, this enriches the text plus builds on the learning from the classroom. This reading is recorded in a reading record booklet. Each completed reading record booklet triggers a reading certificate, presented in assembly.

Spellings

Each term (i.e. 6 times a year) children will bring home a word list of a selection of age appropriate Statutory Words to practice and learn at home. It is expected that children will spell these words correctly in their school books. Some children may receive extra words; a more personal list of words which they commonly spell wrong.

Maths

A continued use of Mathematics. Specific Mathematics challenges will be set weekly.

Home Learning Books

Children will be provided with Home Learning Books which each term will have a Home Learning Menu, (selection of activities relating to that term's classroom learning). These activities range from writing, maths, Information Technology and science. They are provided to allow children to choose an activity they wish to undertake.

From time to time additional home learning activities maybe set i.e. during holidays or specific topic related activities.

Review

This policy will be reviewed as it is deemed appropriate, but no less frequently than every three years. The policy review will be undertaken by the Federation's Headteachers and the Governing Body's Policies Working Party.