



# **Pickering Community Junior School**

## **Home Learning Policy**

### **Introduction**

*Home Learning is an invaluable opportunity for children to practise the skills and knowledge taught at school. It provides a link between home and school and should encourage parental involvement in children's learning. At Pickering Community Junior School, we value home learning and ensure that the efforts of the children are acknowledged and misconceptions addressed through the feedback we provide.*

*This school policy for home learning was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.*

### **Aims**

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use home learning as a tool to help continue to raise standards of achievement and attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for secondary school.

### **The Nature of Home Learning**

It should be noted that home learning can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider: -

1. The nature and type of home learning changes throughout a child's school career.
2. Amount and frequency of home learning should increase as a child gets older.
3. Home learning should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Home learning should be set regularly from Year 3 to Year 6.

### **What home learning should I expect?**

The home learning should always challenge your child and there may be times when your support is required to help them complete it. In most cases, the home learning should be able to be completed independently. Home learning is set for all children in school. We expect that parents/carers will support the work of the school by helping their child to complete the work that is set.

## Recommended Time Allocation

Home learning should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the school. At Pickering Community Junior School, we always set home learning that spans a weekend. This is to support families in juggling hectic family diaries and after school events.

The following are appropriate time allocations for home learning activities.

Key Stage 2			
Area	Where?	Task Type	Time Guide
<b>Reading</b>	Reading book Notes in planner	Reading for pleasure book, chosen by the child. Where appropriate only-Phonetically decodable book at the child's phonic level	Children to read for 20 minutes at least three times a week
<b>Projects (The Home Learning Grid), which will encompass all subject areas</b>	Home Learning book	Creative / Practical/ Written, will always include an option for maths revision	Children will choose one activity per week. The activity should last in the region of 30 minutes.
<b>Parents may further support their child's learning at home through:</b>			
<b>Maths</b>	Times Tables Rockstars practise	Online/ oral/ paper-based practice	Children are encouraged to practise recall of times tables.
<b>Spelling</b>	Planner	Written	Key spellings which children are struggling to remember will be recorded in the planner. These words can be learnt at home.

Year 6 / Pre SATs – From Spring term			
Area	Where?	Task Type	Time Guide
<b>Reading or SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</b>	CGL comprehension Book or in Home Learning book	Comprehension or grammar task	Set every other week. Task takes approximately 30 – 40 minutes to complete.
<b>Maths</b>	Practice Maths SATs questions	Written task - work related to the learning objective set that week	Set every week. Task takes approximately 30 – 40 minutes to complete.

## When should I receive and return home learning?

Home Learning Grids will be given out at the beginning of every half term. They usually coincide with your child's current curriculum theme and the whole school 'big idea'. The Home Learning Grids have been designed to offer a wide variety of learning opportunities, differing in challenge, focus and length to suit all learning behaviours and strengths. The grids will guide your child in choosing tasks that might include varying tasks from across the curriculum and may include indoor or outdoor activities. The flexible approach helps to engage all learners. In addition, two of the tasks set every half term will be

‘whole school’ to encourage family and friends in different year groups to complete the task collaboratively, as well as always including the option to complete a maths revision task from the previous half term’s learning. Where several maths tasks are listed, each task will count as one piece of home learning.

Where possible home learning tasks should be completed in the Home Learning book and the completed activity can be handed in on a weekly basis. Although it is preferable that children complete one task per week, as a school we recognise that some weeks are busier than others and therefore a family may choose to complete a shorter task at these times, or complete more than one task the following week. The Home Learning Grids will always indicate how many tasks a child should complete in each half term.

If the task is not able to be completed in the books, a note of the activity will suffice, either in the Home Learning book or in the planner. Alternately, parents may wish to send a photo of the activity into school via email. Teachers from each class will identify the day of the week when home learning is to be set and when it needs to be completed by. Children will be given support by their class teacher, explaining their home learning tasks and how they would like this to be handed in.

### **Resources**

All children will be provided with:

1. Home Learning Book
2. Login details to websites
3. Any other resources helpful to the learning in that year group

Children may also be provided with, if required:

4. Pencil
5. Ruler
6. Rubber
7. Pencil sharpener

### **Role of the Class Teacher**

- To set regular home learning in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure any home learning is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete home learning tasks.
- To provide quality and meaningful feedback to children.
- To be inclusive in setting home learning, including providing alternative arrangements if required by a child.

### **Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body**

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school of this policy.

### **Role of Parents/Carers**

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts their home learning
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their home learning.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their home learning.
- To become actively involved and support their child with home learning activities.
- To make it clear that they value home learning and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

- To liaise with school regarding concerns or any difficulties the child may be facing.

## **Racial Equality and Equal Opportunities**

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Pickering Community Junior School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

We provide opportunities for children to complete home learning in school if it is difficult for them to complete it at home.

Where parents and carers find a child needs a more bespoke approach to home learning for any reason, we encourage them to approach the class teacher where an individual agreement can be made. This may be where a child prefers to complete a larger project over several weeks, or where a child's individual need requires a different type of home learning.

## **Marking and Feedback**

Feedback will always be provided on home learning tasks. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing home learning a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that home learning is an important and valued aspect of school life. Providing feedback on home learning is a way of monitoring who has completed their tasks, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. If the work is completed in the home learning book, the teacher will mark this in green pen, or in some instances this may be verbal when the children are back in school.

If children are absent due to illness, we will not send tasks home. We will assume the child was too ill to complete any home learning.

If a child is absent for a length of time, the teacher and the parent will agree what work should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. The work could be provided on paper or emailed via the office to the parents.

**In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Headteacher first.**

It is not possible to provide additional work when parents take holidays in term time. We expect children to be in school during term time.

Parents and carers who have queries about home learning should not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to/see their child's class teacher. It is always better to communicate than allow an issue to pass unaddressed.

## **Failure to Complete Home Learning:**

All teachers will keep a record of home learning returns. There will be occasions when, for personal reasons, home learning cannot be completed and/or handed in on time. Should this be the case, it is imperative that a note is sent or an appointment is made with the class teacher so that issues can be addressed.

If the school is unaware of any exceptional circumstances, then the following procedures will be put into place:

## **Procedures when home learning is not completed:**

**Children who do not complete their allocated reading** – an encouraging note will be left in the planner. The child will complete a make-up reading session either in the Reading Den where they will read to a Year 6 reading monitor, or independently in a designated classroom, whichever setting is most

appropriate for the individual child. This will take place during a break time. The expectation is that a child will read for five minutes for every one of the week's three missed reads, not exceeding fifteen minutes.

**Children who do not complete the tasks from the Home Learning Grid** – The expectation for the appropriate amount of learning grid tasks will be included on the Home Learning Grids. Every child who completes this amount of home learning within the half term will receive an additional reward. Staff are encouraged to reward children's home learning efforts by means of positive reinforcement, in-line with the school's behaviour policy. This will likely take the form of housepoints, verbal praise and sending very special pieces to the Headteacher for a special sticker.

**Policy Reviewed: September 2025**

**Date of next review: September 2026**