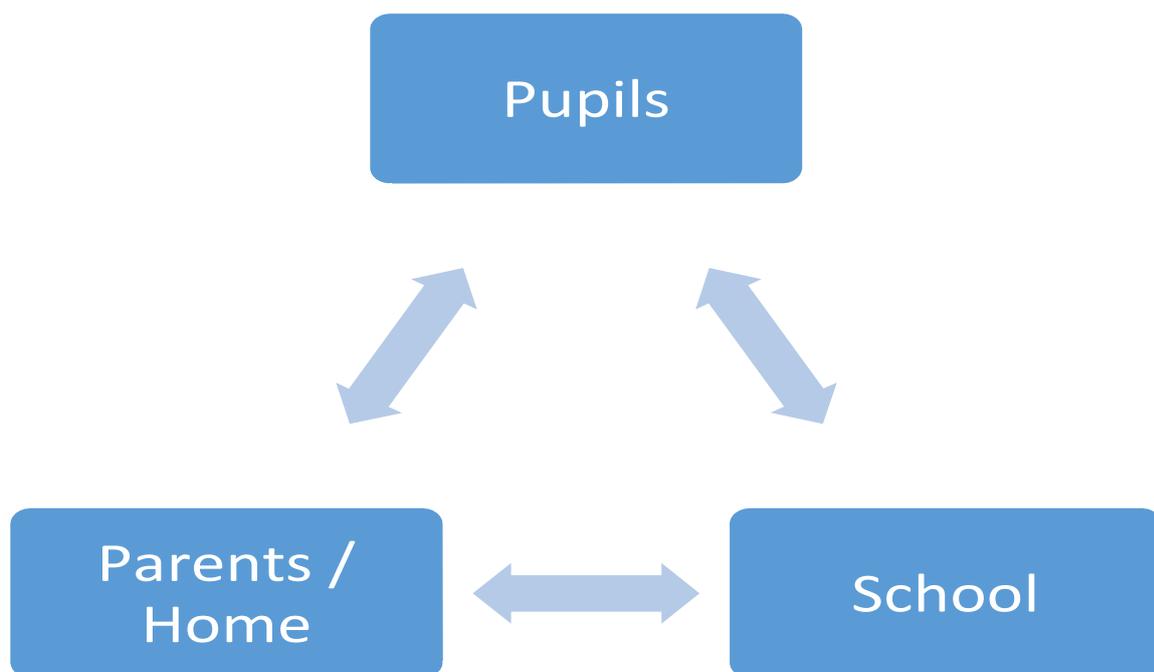




Home Learning



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Aims of the Home Learning Partnership

At Oriol we believe that the education process is a partnership between home and school.

It is our belief that Home Learning should support and enrich child's learning.

We believe Home Learning has an important part to play in improving pupils' academic performance.

Home Learning also provides opportunities for home-school co-operation and communication.

It also establishes the practices of the '*Homework Habit*', which prepares children for secondary school.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that children, parents, staff governors and other interested parties have a clear understanding of why Home Learning is given, how it is organised and the responsibilities of all involved.

What is Home Learning for?

The purposes of Home Learning can be summarised as:

- allowing practice and consolidation of the English and Mathematics skills and other aspects of class work;
- allowing preparation for future class work;
- offering access to resources not available in school;
- developing skills in using libraries and other resources;
- providing opportunities for individual work;
- allowing assessment of children's progress and mastery of work;
- providing evidence for the evaluation of teaching;
- training for children in planning and organising time;
- developing good habits and self-discipline;
- encouraging ownership and responsibility;
- providing information for parents;
- providing opportunities for parental co-operation and involvement;
- creating channels for home-school dialogue.

What form will the Home Learning take?

Home Learning activities will vary from year group to year group as the type of Home Learning set will be at the teacher's discretion, but it will be expected that during any year each child will be given a range of tasks.

Typically in Year 1, children will take home weekly spellings and a fortnightly piece of Mathematics or English Home Learning.

Typically in years 2-6 children will take home each week:

- one piece of Mathematics (up to 30 minutes),
- a piece of English/writing based activity (up to 30 minutes).

In addition we ask that all parents read regularly with their child (at least 5x per week for between 10 and 20 minutes) keeping a record of this in their child's Reading Diary and to practice their spellings and times tables regularly throughout the week.

There may be times when children are given additional Home Learning if their teacher feels they may need this extra support or the parents request additional work. In this instance the teacher will discuss this with the child or/and the parent.

How will Home Learning be organised?

Home Learning activities may be paper based or computer based activities.

All activities will be appropriate to the child's level of ability.

Activities should not take much longer than about 30 minutes¹. The amount of time allocated for each activity is for guidance only because individual children may need a different amount of time to complete it but if activities are regularly taking longer than this to complete please talk to the class teacher.

The amount of time set aside for Home Learning is expected to increase as the children get older, develop their skills and progress through the year.

Children will record Home Learning in their 'Home Learning' books, PACT books or spelling diaries.

At the beginning of each term each child will take home a curriculum newsletter which will outline the days on parents you can expect Home Learning to be set and taken in.

Personal Extended Studies (PXS)

During holidays children will often be asked to take part in a longer task or project; this may be a whole school theme or specific to a year group. It might include tasks to enable preparation in advance of studying a new unit of work; this would be preparation for class work and might include researching information, finding resources, reading, etc.

There may sometimes be spontaneous work; that is Home Learning arising from an idea teacher or children have during class work.

Teachers' involvement

Teachers will set activities appropriate to the abilities and needs of their children. Home Learning will be differentiated to enable pupils of all abilities to access it.

When setting Home Learning activities teachers will consider:

- children with Special Needs;
- children for whom English is an additional language;
- children who have a disability;
- more able children;
- choosing topics of interest to boys and girls;
- choosing topics which are relevant for children from a variety of ethnic/cultural backgrounds;
- the ability of children to work independently;
- the resources pupils may have available to support them at home².

²where families have limited resource (e.g. no access to an internet enabled device) the school will investigate ways in which these pupils can be supported.

Teachers will collect, mark or respond to each child's work giving relevant and regular feedback to children and parents. (Not all Home Learning needs to be formally marked – **but nor should it 'disappear without comment...'**).

Teachers will keep a record of Home Learning that is received. In the case of work produced as the result of a PeX Project this work may be included in display or celebrated in assembly.



A Year 2 Celebration of Home Learning – The Great Fire of London

Teachers will keep a copy of Home Learning assignments, work sheets, etc to enable members of the Management Team access to monitor progression and quality.

Teachers will work with parents to develop strategies for helping children for whom doing Home Learning is proving difficult.

Where Home Learning is regularly 'not done' teachers will discuss this issue with pupils and their parents.

If children fail to give in their work regularly or without good reason they will be offered a further opportunity to complete it. If the work remains undone children **may** be asked to stay in at break-time to complete Home Learning with an appropriate adult on hand to offer support. **Teachers will use their judgement as to whether or not this appropriate and of benefit to the individual pupils.**

Teachers will use their discretion about the amount of time used in pursuing a piece of work.

We want to encourage children to take real pride in their work and to understand the importance of presenting their work to the best of their ability. This is important in preparing children for secondary school and the world of work. If Home Learning is untidy or careless children may be asked to repeat it. Teachers will bear in mind the child's ability, circumstances and the appropriateness of the task.

Parent/Guardians' involvement

Parent/Guardians have an important role to play by:

- being aware of the school's Home Learning Policy Statement and expectations;
- making sure they have details in Termly Year Group Letters (also on our website);
- keeping the class teacher informed of any difficulties or real successes associated with Home Learning (for instance via email or a note);
- hearing/encouraging children to read, and commenting in PACT booklets;

- providing a suitable support, place and time for Home Learning;
- providing suitable resources² eg pens, pencils, use of local library, dictionaries etc;
- being positive about the value of Home Learning;
- checking/signing PACT Books, Home Learning Books and Home-School Diary (KS2) regularly;
- giving their child praise, recognition, support, advice and a listening ear.

Children's involvement

Children are expected to:

- take pride in their work and complete Home Learning activity as well as they can;
- give completed Home Learning activities in on time;
- ask parents/teachers for help if necessary.

Recommended time allocation for Home Learning

¹We have already stated that home learning activities should not take too long. We believe that a sensible programme of Home Learning activities for children in Key Stage 1 should be designed to take, on average, about 1 hour a week. At Key Stage 2 the demands should gradually increase so that by Years 5 and 6 children are spending about 30 to 40 minutes a day (approx. two and a half hours a week) on Home Learning.

Activity	Daily Reading (up to)	Spelling Practice	Times Tables	English	Maths	Weekly Total (approx.)	PXS
				Once a week (up to)			
Year 1	10 minutes	Up to 5 minutes a day or a couple of longer sessions each week	Up to 5 minutes a day or a couple of longer sessions each week	Weekly		1hr	Set during holiday (but keep the reading and tables practice going!)
Year 2	10 minutes			15 minutes	15 minutes	1hr 20 min	
Year 3	15 minutes			20 minutes	20 minutes	1hr 30 min	
Year 4				25 minutes	25 minutes	1hr 45 min	
Year 5				30 minutes	30 minutes	2hr	
Year 6				40 minutes	40 minutes	2hr 30mins	

The times here are approx. given to show how home learning may be organised, the totals are more important, parents must help decided what is appropriate for their child's needs.

The daily reading which the Government recommends for all children can, of course, be done as part of Home Learning. On days when the Home Learning activity is something other than reading, children should be encouraged, in addition, to read – on their own or with others – for at least 15 minutes (less for infants) more if you feel so inclined.

Work will be set which is appropriate to the age, needs and abilities of all children. The average child should be able to complete the work within the suggested time (note it will be differentiated).

Tasks may be completed in one session or may last over a longer period. As children get older they will be encouraged to plan their own study time and meet the deadlines.

Children should not struggle over the Home Learning activities to the point of frustration or boredom. Any difficulties should be discussed with the class teacher so the child can be helped.

Computer based activities for maths will use software like MyMaths or Doddlemaths or Mathletics which will be free to download and use.

Computer based activities in other subjects but particularly English will normally be based around Google Docs or Google Chrome. Again this is free to use software that can be accessed on any internet enabled device, including some TV's!

All pupils from 1 to 6 will be provided with an URL, username and password for the software we ask them to use. Should this information be lost we will provide it again.

We will publish each year a guide to how you can use internet enabled devices to support home learning. If you have any difficulty with technology or accessing these activities please come in and speak to a member of staff and we will explore how we can help.

Nursery and Reception

In Nursery and Reception we do not set regular Home Learning activities rather 'Home Learning' will be interpreted broadly as *Helping Your Child At Home* as it is still important that home and school work together to support and enrich the child's learning.

In Nursery and Reception from November children will take reading books and PACT books home to read with parents and return to school daily, these will be checked regularly by a member of staff and reading books changed. You should expect this to happen weekly in Nursery and at least weekly Reception.

Parents' involvement

Parents have an important role to play by;

- encouraging children through praise and appreciation;
- developing language;
- supporting the 'Time for Rhyme Project';
- reading to, and looking at books with their child;
- supporting early years learning through various curriculum areas, eg:
 - in Nursery - contributing to colour table, bringing in items of interest, items for science table, shapes for maths, etc;
 - in Reception - encouraging children to learn initial letter sounds, and bringing in items for number table, interest table, etc.

Quality Assurance

Members of the Management Team will:

- review the Home Learning Policy Statement each year;
- monitor the quantity, continuity and appropriateness of Home Learning tasks;
- discuss with parents any children who have an ongoing problem in completing Home Learning;
- seek feedback from parents and children on how they feel about Home Learning

The impact of this policy and Home Learning in general will be reviewed annually.