

Uplands Primary School Home Learning Policy

Date agreed: June 2024

Date for renewal: June 2027



Rationale

1. At Uplands Primary School we believe that a strong home school partnership supports our children in being the best learners they can be; we recognise that children benefit greatly from the mutual support of their families and their teachers. Home learning can be beneficial to your child's development in a range of ways; it can enhance learning through encouraging children to be organised and independent learners. The home learning tasks we set, seek to develop our children's self-motivation and self-confidence whilst embedding core skills that will support them throughout their academic journey. We recognise that time spent at home is valued family time and we understand the importance of having time together to take part in shared experiences that extend beyond academic achievements. This policy is intended to promote manageable home learning opportunities that complement the experiences you take part in together as a family.

Aim

2. Ensure the consistency of our approach across the school.
3. Improve and extend the quality of learning experiences offered to our children.
4. Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and staff to work together in partnership.
5. Encourage progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
6. Consider the needs of the individuals in our school.
7. Ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding of the expectations of pupils.
8. Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work collaboratively to enjoy learning.

The purpose of home learning at Uplands is:

9. To consolidate and reinforce basic skills for example, spelling and number facts.
10. To reinforce what has been taught in class.
11. To promote a curiosity for learning beyond the classroom.
12. To encourage parental involvement and support parents in understanding the aims of our school.
13. Give children the opportunity to use out of school resources (eg books and IT sources).
14. Develop good learning habits and the confidence and self-discipline that children need to study independently.
15. Prepare children adequately for life beyond Uplands, at secondary school.

Home Learning at Uplands:

16. Home learning at Uplands will predominantly be set and returned using the online learning platform – Seesaw. It is expected that all pupils will attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their abilities. The home learning set weekly will be in addition to the regular reading we expect from all children.

Feedback:

17. We believe that feedback is for the child and therefore feedback to home learning will be given in a range of ways. Work received on Seesaw will always be acknowledged by staff either with a “like” or a “comment”. Staff within the team may respond with a direct comment on the task, or where we identify a common theme, feedback may be given through follow up video or post. Staff may also feedback to pupils orally in class as this can be more valuable to the pupil than a written comment especially with younger pupils.

Reading:

18. We expect all children to read as often as possible at home. We also promote the sharing of stories and giving children the opportunity to hear others read to them. In EYFS and KS1 we encourage children to read their phonics book as these are the books that support with the children’s developing phonic knowledge. These books are set on each child’s Ecollins log – this will be the book that children have been reading with their teacher at school. In EYFS and KS1 we will also send children with a ‘shared book’ for children to share with parents at home. Once children have completed the phonics scheme, we encourage children to access books from our school and local libraries. All children in school have a Reading Record book. We request parents to regularly write in the reading records and comment about their child’s engagement with reading at home.

Topic Homework:

19. We are proud of our rich and varied curriculum and the wide range of engaging topics covered throughout the year. On occasions, there may be the opportunity for your child to take part in a longer ‘project style’ piece of homework that links to a particular topic or unit being covered in school. Information about this project homework will be shared in advance on Seesaw as usual and will be optional for your child to complete. An example of this type of project may be where we are teaching a rich and exciting history unit, such as the Great Fire of London, where children are highly motivated to continue and deepen their learning beyond the classroom. We also have whole school projects at different points of the year that your child may like to complete and share.

Safeguarding pupils using the online platform

20. As always, safeguarding our pupils is at the heart of what we do at Uplands. We will be including Seesaw in our computing curriculum to support staff in teaching children how to use our online platforms safely. Internet safety is a fundamental part of our curriculum and we will continue to teach children about using the internet safely and ensuring they are risk aware when using the online platforms.

21. The online platforms used for home learning at Uplands (Seesaw, and Mathletics) are approved sites that are designed for use by primary aged pupils. We continue to teach children about how to report sites that concern them and children are taught explicitly about how to seek help if they have any worries about things they have seen online.

22. In line with our e-safety policy and our IT policy, we strongly recommend that parents are aware of, and monitor, the sites their children are using online. This extends to our sites used for home learning, in order to safeguard our pupils when working online.

Links to other policies

23. Please also refer to other policies for supporting information.

What to do if you are not happy with the home learning provision:

24. In the first instance, we request that parents contact their child's class teacher to discuss any concerns regarding weekly home learning provision. Following this, please contact the Phase leader in your child's year group who will be able to address your concerns. Please contact the office who will redirect your query or concern.

25. If you are still not happy, you can find a copy of our Complaints Policy on our website, where a member of SLT will be able to address your concerns.

26. **The amount of home learning set will depend on the age and stage of your child. Homework for pupils in Year 1 -6 will be set on Seesaw on a Friday. Listed below are some guidelines to follow.**

Year R – EYFS		
Subject	What?	How much?
Reading	Reading books (Phonics books)	10 minutes, at least 5x a week.
English	A phonics activity linked to the phonemes of the week	1 x a week
All other areas of EYFS	Share on Tapestry other experiences and learning that contribute to child's early years development	

Year 1/2 – KS1 <i>Weekly homework should take approximately 20-30 mins to complete</i>		
Subject	What?	How much?
Reading	Reading books (Phonics books, library books, books from home)	10 minutes, at least 5x a week.
English	A phonics or spelling game/activity linked to the learning that week	1x a week
Maths	Number, number bonds, counting patterns or other maths based activities	1x a week every week

Year 3/4 – LKS2 <i>Weekly homework will take approximately 30 minutes</i>		
Subject	What?	How much?
Reading	Reading books (Phonics/colour band book, library books, books from home)	15 minutes, at least 5x a week.
English	A phonics or spelling game/activity linked to the learning that week	1x a week every week
Maths	Number, number bonds, counting patterns or other maths based activities	1x a week every week
Timetables	Timetable practise in preparation for multiplication checks	10 minutes at least 3 x a week

Year 5/6 – UKS2		
<i>We expect children to spend approx. 30 minutes – 1 hour on their homework each week.</i>		
Subject	What?	How much?
Reading	Reading books (phonics books, library books or books from home)	20 minutes, at least 5x a week
English	Spelling and grammar activities based on learning in class through	Weekly practise using the list sent weekly
Maths	Up to 3 activities, based on learning in class through <i>Mathletics</i>	Up to 3 activities weekly.
SATs	<i>As we head towards SATs: Reading comprehension and SPaG depending on the needs of the children for both year groups</i>	<i>1x piece weekly in preparation for SATs</i>

27. In order to support parents we have put together the below FAQs to explain how we will use Seesaw to set and return homework and how parents can continue to support their child at home.

My child is on the SEN register, how will they be supported?

28. We recognise all of our children are different and access learning in different ways. We will ensure that the work we set your child is accessible for your child, and where appropriate, may provide differentiated tasks to meet their needs. If your child requires a paper copy of the home learning, please speak to your child's class teacher. Lunchtime Homelearning club, run by school staff, will be available if your child would like further adult support with their homework.

My child finds the tasks too easy, will the school provide more?

29. Our home learning tasks will link to key skills that have already been taught within the classroom. Therefore your child may already show some understanding of the task, but we would encourage you, and them, to continue practising the skill in a range of contexts. Teachers will advise where there is an extension to the home learning task. In some cases, differentiated tasks may be appropriate – your child's class teacher will advise if this is the case.

How will the school support parents if their child does not have access to a device?

30. We recognise that not every child has access to their own device and we understand the challenges of shared devices and varied internet connections. Homelearning will be set on a Friday, with a deadline of the following Thursday to complete. We hope that within this time, children may be able to have some access to existing devices at home. If this is not possible, we can also provide paper copies if needed.

What if my child cannot complete the tasks in the time given above?

31. We have an 'open door policy' and we encourage parents to communicate any issues back with the class teacher. This can be done through Seesaw or through the main school

office. We recognise all children are different and will look for ways we can support your child if this is the case.

How can the school support parents to help their child at home?

32. We have published a document on our website full of helpful hints and tips about supporting your child at home. Please refer to it for a range of ideas about supporting your child.

My child keeps telling me that no work has been set. How can I check this?

33. All Seesaw access codes have been emailed to parents. (Please contact the office if you require another code) We encourage parents of KS2 pupils to monitor the children's homework each week. When you log in to Seesaw, it will be clear where new work has been set. On weeks where no homework has been set, this will be communicated with parents through the Announcements Feature on Seesaw.

Will the work be marked if it is sent in late?

34. Work will be set on a Friday by 3:30pm. It will be marked/acknowledged by the following Thursday afternoon. Work submitted after this time will be acknowledged but may not be until the week after.

How will the school help parents to know when their work is set and needs to be completed?

35. The above tables show when work will be set. All homework will be set on a Friday and should be submitted by the following Thursday. If this timescale changes for a particular task, it will be detailed on the task or teaching video when the work is set.

How will the school support pupils who do not complete any home learning?

36. In the first instance, we will always seek to work with families where children are finding it hard to complete home learning. This may be due to lack of access to devices or that the child is finding it hard to access the tasks. The class teacher will work with the family to resolve this. In KS2 if this continues, children will be invited to join a member of staff during lunchtime to complete their home learning tasks in school.

Our circumstances have changed and we are finding it hard to complete the tasks with our children. How can the school support our family?

37. Please stay in touch and keep the class teacher informed of any difficulties you are experiencing at home. We will endeavour to support your child with completing their home learning at home, or by offering a place at homelearning club at lunch time.

I am not happy with the tasks and would like to speak to someone. How can I do this?

38. In the first instance, please contact your child's class teacher to resolve any concerns regarding the tasks set. This can be done through the usual channels at the main office. Following this, if you feel the issue has not been resolved, you can contact the Phase leader or SLT through the main office. A copy of our Complaints policy is on our website.

Will the school expect pupils to complete tasks over the school holidays?

39. No. We feel that children will benefit from time spent outside and with their friends and families during the school holidays. We know that learning can take many forms and children will continue to learn and develop through the activities they take part in during the holidays. Please continue reading with your child and if your child would like to complete any tasks, we suggest referring back to previous tasks and further embedding these key skills.

Will tasks be set during the first and last weeks of term?

40. Work will not be set during the first and last week of term. We will support the children in the first week of term as they settle back into routines and we often find that children become increasingly tired as the term progresses. To support with mental wellbeing, there will be no academic tasks set during these weeks. Please refer to our “Supporting your child at home” booklet for some suggested activities during this time.

My child cannot log in. Who do we speak to?

41. Please email the office using adminoffice@uplands.hants.sch.uk with the subject “Seesaw Code”. The office will then pass this information to your child’s class teacher who will get in touch with some new log in information or advice on how to log in.

My child keeps coming home with the same reading book or books that are not the right level. How can the school support with this?

42. While your child is working their way through our Phonics book system, it is important that they read the colour level they have been given by a member of staff. This book is closely matched to their developing phonic knowledge and will have been given to your child following ongoing phonics and reading assessments. If you feel your child is ready to move on to a new level, please contact the class teacher by leaving a comment in your child’s reading record. *Please note, this does not mean your child will be automatically moved levels, as there are many things we assess before making this decision.* In KS1 we encourage children to change their ‘sharing’ books independently, which takes time to embed. Children may forget to change their books or bring home the wrong band. Please encourage your children when you drop them off or let the class teacher know through a note in the reading record. Staff will update parents through the Reading Record when your child changes reading level so you are well informed.

Will parents always receive feedback on the home learning their child has completed?

43. We believe that the feedback is for the child and therefore feedback will always be given to the child. This may be given through oral comments in the classroom, addressed through the following week’s homework task, or given as a written comment or “like” on the activity on Seesaw.