



Highworth Combined School & Nursery

Home Learning Policy

This policy was written/updated by: Brian Stother

This policy was reviewed by the **Curriculum Committee**

This policy was adopted/ratified on: 7th May 2024

This policy is to be reviewed by: May 2027

Highworth Combined School
Home Learning Policy

Rationale

This policy has been prepared with regard to the following:

1. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation which says:

‘Overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning.’

Further information regarding this research can be found at:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/pdf/generate/?u=https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/pdf/toolkit/?id=132&t=Teaching%20and%20Learning%20Toolkit&e=132&s=>

2. On the launch of the Workload Reduction Taskforce on 16th January 2023, the Department for Education stated:

‘We want to make sure that teaching is an attractive career choice, which is why we’re committed to tackling unnecessary workload for teachers and leaders. Our ambition is to reduce working hours by five hours per week within three years and to support this, we’ve launched the Workload Reduction Taskforce.’

The Taskforce will make recommendations to help teachers focus on activities that provide the biggest impact on pupil outcomes.’

Aims

As a result, home learning at Highworth will have the following aims:

- Allow children to practice skills and behaviours where sufficient time cannot be dedicated to this within the school day.
- Involve parents in the learning process of their child/children.
- Create a manageable workload for teachers, where their efforts add value to outcomes for children.

Content

The nature of Home Learning

1. Daily reading: It is expected that all children will spend at least 10 minutes reading (varies by year group – see table on p3) and discussing their home reading book. This will be sent home every day and changed at regular intervals. It will be accompanied with a reading log (not Years 5 & 6) which should be annotated by the listener each day.
2. Rote learning of ‘Common Exception Words’: Early readers (those in Year R, Year 1 and sometimes in Year 2) benefit from rote learning of words that cannot be said aloud using

phonics to 'sound them out'. Consequently, children in these year groups will receive words to be learnt on an appropriate basis.

3. Rote learning of Maths facts: The instant recall of number facts, including times tables, is a key mathematical skill. To help children to learn their number facts, the school uses the websites *Numbots* and *Times Tables Rock Stars*. All children from Year 1 will have login details for the website appropriate to them and should use this to learn and practise these skills at home (see table on p3). Once per month, children in Years 3-6 will be prompted to do a 'Gig' which assesses their progress. A Gig takes approximately 10 minutes.
4. In order to provide further opportunities for those families who would like to do more learning at home, links are included on the school website to the relevant section of the Oak National Academy website, where high quality, age-appropriate lessons and material can be accessed. Oak National Academy is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the [Department for Education](#). Once complete, evidence of these tasks may be brought into school for the teacher to view. Teachers will give verbal feedback to the child to recognise effort, skill and knowledge used. Written feedback will not be provided as it is known that this is of little value to improving the attainment of pupils and is time consuming for the teacher (and therefore counterproductive to reducing workload).

<https://www.thenational.academy/#pupils>

Expectations for reading and maths home learning:

Daily	Reading	Maths Facts (minimum)	Common Exception Words
Year R	10 min	NA	5 minutes
Year 1	10 min	3 minutes	5 minutes
Year 2	10 min	3 minutes	10 minutes (not all children)
Year 3	15 min	3 minutes	NA
Year 4	15 min	3 minutes	NA
Year 5	20 min	3 minutes	NA
Year 6	20 min	3 minutes	NA

Equal Opportunities

This policy has been written in accordance with, and meets the requirements of, the Equality Act 2010.