

Home Learning Policy

At Darell, we offer a creative curriculum, designed to broaden children's experiences and enhance their academic achievement. We recognise that school is not the only place where children learn. The experiences that children get at home, through clubs and family outings, are important to their development as well rounded young citizens.

We believe that home learning for our children should be based on consolidating the learning that they have done in school, deepening their understanding by being directly related to what is being taught at school and differentiated according to their ability so that children feel confident in completing it.

We believe that home learning should not take a large amount of time, rather that it should enhance children's learning experiences and not encroach on family time.

Purpose of Home Learning

- To provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly with basic skills and the creative curriculum
- To extend school learning, for example, through doing additional learning
- To provide an appropriately set, differentiated and challenging activities related to what is being taught at school
- To encourage pupils, as they become older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to work and study independently

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Children with special educational needs should be set home learning that reflects their ability. Home learning tasks related to practising basic skills must be differentiated by the teacher according to the child's ability.

Creative-curriculum-based home learning will be of a creative nature and children can complete the task to the best of their ability. These task explanations must be clear and appropriately communicated to children to ensure they fully comprehend the activity.

Home Learning Club

A Home Learning Club is available for pupils from Year 1-6 after school to support children in completing their home learning. Home Learning Club is open to all children, but can support those who do not regularly complete their home learning, find it hard to find a quiet place to work at home or have problems finding resources.

Home Learning in the Early Years and Foundation Stage:

In the EYFS, we encourage parental involvement to establish a firm partnership between the school and home.

Nursery

Reading: on a daily basis, parents should be sharing a picture book with their child. Parents should talk to their child about what is happening on each page and, when they are familiar with the story, to see if they can recall events in the right sequence. Parents should encourage their child to think about why characters act in certain ways, how they think the characters feel and to consider what might have happened if ... and what might happen next.

Picture books and maths and language packs are available for parents to borrow on a weekly basis.

Rhyme of the week is emailed to all parents and they are encouraged to share the rhyme with their children and to follow the link to the bbc schools radio website which is used in Nursery as a teaching tool.

Reception

Reading: On a daily basis with an adult, 5 to 10 minutes. Please ask your child questions about the story. Set challenges: can they find the sounds or tricky words of the week in this book? Three new reading books will be sent home every Monday.

On a weekly basis, children pick a library book. Please read this to your child and discuss the story. These books will be changed on a Tuesday.

Weekly updates of the learning in Reception (sounds of the week/tricky words and maths) will be uploaded to the website on our class page. Learning questions are put on these documents; we encourage parents to discuss and show these to their children.

Additionally, parents are given a bank of activities related to our termly topics that they can complete with their child when newsletters are circulated.

Home Learning Programme for Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2):

Reading: 10 minutes daily with an adult. Please ask your child questions about the characters, setting and plot to check their understanding. Please comment in their Reading Record.

Spelling or Grammar: Home learning will be set on a Friday, linked to the learning done in class that week. The children's progress will be assessed daily through our phonics/spelling lessons and their writing in class.

Maths: We will be completing an arithmetic test on a regular basis in our maths lessons. The test will be sent home every other week so that you can see how your child has scored and the type of questions being asked. Please go through the tests with your child to support their learning and help with any misconceptions. Your child will also have a mental maths target. Please practise this target with them.

Please note:

By the end of Key Stage 1, children should be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Home Learning Programme for Key Stage 2:

Reading: 15 minutes daily with an adult. Listen to your child read and ask them questions about their book. Encourage your child to read across a wide range of genres, including newspapers, journals and encyclopaedia. Encourage your children to comment in their Reading Diary.

Spelling: Spellings will be set and tested each week. A paper copy will be sent home each week and they will be posted on the school website on their class page.

Maths: Children will be expected to practise their times tables target each week at home ready for a test in school. These targets are individual to each child and will be written on their home learning sheet. Every two weeks, they will bring home an arithmetic test to practice, which will also be tested in school.

Please note:

By the end of Year 3, children should be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4, and 8 times tables.

By the end of Year 4, children should be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for all tables up to 12 x 12.

Review

The School Leadership Team (SLT) reviews this policy every two years. The SLT may however review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the SLT receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

Agreed Date:
October 2016

Review Date:
October 2018

How to Help Children with Home Learning

- It can be sensible to check that any home learning has been brought home, but allow your child to get over the school day before beginning the task.
- Try to ensure that your child has a peaceful (but not necessarily silent) room or space and a clear surface. Younger children may need company and encouragement if they are to enjoy their work.
- Help them plan their time: suggest short spells of work rather than one long stretch.
- Help them establish a routine.
- Keep reference books together and accessible. Be sure you have pencils, rulers, etc., so there can be no excuses.
- Try to fit family activities around your child's home learning, so your child isn't left out while everyone else is having fun.
- Be consistent: if you insist on something being done, see it through.
- Tell the school at once if your child is having difficulties with home learning, if it takes too long or if it is impossible for your child to meet deadlines set.
- Offer help, but don't take over; it is your child's home learning, not yours.