

# **Parish CE Primary School**



## **Home Study Policy**

## **British Values Curriculum Policy Statement**

**Parish Church of England Primary** is a school built on Christian beliefs and values. However, we recognise that our children are part of the wider British society, which is multi- cultural and multi-faith in its composition.

We also understand that we have a crucial role to play in ensuring that our children become valuable and fully rounded members of society, who treat others with respect and tolerance and are fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

Where it is appropriate and pertinent we aim to teach, reinforce and develop our inherent British values both within our school practices (please refer to our British Values Statement) and within our curriculum coverage.

This statement outlines the key British values we actively promote within the curriculum.

- **Democracy**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs**
- **The Rule of Law**

**Inclusion, Equality and Community Cohesion Policy Statement**

**At Parish Church of England Primary School we aim to provide high quality education which is inclusive and equips pupils for life- long learning. We strive to enable all pupils to achieve their optimum potential.**

We aim to promote inclusivity, equality and community cohesion as an integral aspect of our school development, permeating all our policies, in order to increase the learning and participation of all our pupils.

We recognise and value the varied life experiences and needs of all members of our school community. Our school is one in which the teaching, learning, achievements, attitudes and well -being of each child matters.

We are committed to ensuring that school practice reflects our inclusive aims by utilising resources both within the school and the Local Community, by responding to diversity and equality.

We aim to develop an acceptance of the British values of democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect, fair-mindedness and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

**The school strives to establish equal rights and inclusive values by having high expectations for all pupils, by valuing all children and through the sharing of the same philosophy by all staff, governors and parents alike.**

### **Home Study Policy**

Home study is valued at Parish Church of England Primary School by both staff and parents and is a statutory part of the curriculum. Through home study opportunities, we are further developing the effective partnership between school and home. Our approach to home study focusses primarily on the development of essential knowledge linked to our curriculum coverage. It is expected that all pupils within school complete home study tasks that are creative and knowledge-centred, as opposed to traditional 'pencil and paper' activities.

### **Aims**

- To provide a whole school approach.
- To ensure progression and continuity through the school.
- To further develop the home school partnership.
- To deepen knowledge, skills and understanding taught in class, and across previous year groups.
- To foster confidence and independence in approaches to home study, subsequently preparing children for High School.
- To develop general knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the world around us.

### **Home School Agreement**

Home study forms part of our Home/School Agreement which is signed by the parent/guardian confirming their understanding.

### **Class 'Meet the Teacher' Handbook**

Details of individual classes' home study expectations can be found in the Class Handbook which is given out at Meet the Teacher event each year.

### **Home/School Diaries**

Each child will be provided with a Home/School Diary. These diaries are an essential means of communication between school and home. In addition to weekly communication pages, these diaries contain many reference pages (related to maths, spellings, maps, music, science etc.) which allow children to conduct independent home study.

### **Online Homework**

Some home study tasks will require access to the internet and a computer or tablet. Where this proves problematic, children will have access to a lunchtime study club.

### **Teacher's Role**

1. To set home study tasks on a regular basis.
2. To provide home study materials relevant to the curriculum studied and which enable children, through retrieval activities, to deepen knowledge learned.
3. To ensure home study tasks set are manageable and appropriate for all children including S.E.N.
4. To ensure that each pupil has a Rainbow Folder and is familiar with the contents within.
5. To exemplify approaches to independent study by referring regularly to the 'Study Buddy'.
6. To use regular retrieval checks and assessment to monitor progress and attainment.
7. To make parents aware of home study tasks set through home/school diaries or other methods of communication.

### **Parent's Role**

1. To take an active interest in your child's home study tasks, including checking home/school diaries daily and referring to Study Buddy guides.
2. To provide a suitable environment in which to work.
3. To encourage and praise during an activity and once it is completed.
4. To give support to older children, whilst encouraging independence.
5. To use resources inside and outside the home e.g. Internet Access, Library.
6. To discuss any problems with the class teacher.
7. To ensure your child comes to school with their Rainbow Folder and Home/School diary in their book bag each day.
8. To support class teachers in administering penalties to those who persistently fail to complete home study tasks (including reading) e.g. detention, extra reading etc.

### **Child's Role**

1. To accept the importance of home study tasks.
2. To be organised and ensure they take home necessary books and equipment.
3. To be responsible for completing home study tasks on time such as learning facts from their knowledge organiser ready for the next lesson.
4. To have access to their Rainbow Folder each day.

### **Loss and Replacement**

In the event that Rainbow Folders are lost, a replacement charge of £3 will be requested.

Similarly, if Home/School Diaries are lost or damaged, a replacement charge of £3.50 will be requested.

### **Possible Home Study Tasks**

Pupils are expected to complete home study tasks every week. Across the school, home study works in exactly the same way. (More information about some of the tasks listed can be found below this table).

	<b>Possible Home Study Tasks</b>
<b>PHASE 1 (Nursery, Reception, Year 1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading (independent and shared)</li><li>• Phonic Activities e.g. 'Red Word' practise</li><li>• Numbots</li><li>• Home Learning Challenges/Projects</li><li>• Activities related to knowledge organisers – vital vocabulary, mini quizzes etc.</li><li>• Independent Study based on reference materials in Home/School Diary or Rainbow Folder</li></ul>
<b>PHASE 2 (Year 2, Year 3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading</li><li>• Spellings</li><li>• Phonics Activities</li><li>• Times Table Rock Stars</li><li>• Fluency Questions</li><li>• Activities related to knowledge organisers – vital vocabulary, mini quizzes, revision etc.</li><li>• Independent Study based on reference materials in Home/School Diary or Rainbow Folder</li><li>• Projects related to topics</li></ul>
<b>PHASE 3 (Year 4 , Year 5, Year 6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading</li><li>• Spellings</li><li>• Times Table Rock Stars</li><li>• Fluency Questions</li><li>• Activities related to knowledge organisers – vital vocabulary, mini quizzes, revision etc.</li><li>• Projects related to topics</li><li>• SATs preparation (Year 6)</li></ul>

### **Reading**

We recommend that pupils read every night for 30 minutes. We have a minimum expectation of reading 3 times a week at home and we reward children who read 4 times a week at home or more. We request that all children have their book every day in school as there are many opportunities to read within the school day. We encourage children to read with parents, independently and also to be read to by parents. We also promote the use of online reading resources wherever possible. All of these reading experiences are vital to extending learning and instilling a love of reading for pleasure. All reading activities should be recorded in the Home/School Diary.

### **Spelling**

Rainbow Folders and Home/School diaries contain National Curriculum 'Common Exception Words' and 'Word Lists' alongside other helpful spelling aids. Children may choose to practise these as part of their independent home study whenever they wish and in whatever way they choose.

Focused spelling lists (linked to the weekly direct teaching of spelling) are given out to each year group on a Friday (this may differ in Phase 1 and 2 when children's spellings are linked to Read, Write, Inc.). Children may practice the spellings in any way that suits them and are not required to hand any written work back to the teacher. Teachers will also upload the spelling lists to SpellingCity, an online site in which children can play games with their spelling words (links to individual class lists on SpellingCity can be found on class pages on our school website). Spellings are tested on a Thursday across the school.

### **Maths**

Pupils are required to practice their times tables at home. In support of this, pupils have been given a 'Times Tables Rockstars' password and we expect them to access this resource regularly. 'Mathletics' passwords are also given to children and regular use of this maths online resource is encouraged also. Within our Home/School Diaries and Rainbow Folders, there are also many other mathematical resources which provide children with many opportunities for independent home study. Class pages on our school website also provide additional links to useful Maths resources.

### **What is a Knowledge Organiser?**

A knowledge organiser is a document (one page of A4) that contains key facts and information that children need to have a basic knowledge and understanding of a topic.

Our knowledge organisers will include the essential facts about the topic, laid out in easy-to-digest chunks; key vocabulary or technical terms and their meanings (we call this vital vocabulary); images such as maps or diagrams; and famous quotations, if relevant.

What a knowledge organiser includes will depend on the subject. For example, a 'World War Two' knowledge organiser and a 'Rivers' knowledge organiser would both include maps, but the former would also include a timeline, and the latter would need diagrams.

We all want children to gain specific knowledge in each curriculum subject that builds up over time. Independent study based on the content of the knowledge organiser has been proven to make learning 'sticky' and deepens knowledge accrued over time.

### **Supporting Independent Study**

Parents and children will be provided with a Phase appropriate 'Phase Study Buddy' in order to ensure that support and ideas are given in relation to how to 'get the most' out of the materials within the Rainbow Folders and Home/School Diaries.

### **Projects**

At times, teachers will ask for children to complete projects based on topics. These projects are intended to nurture curiosity and provide an opportunity to build upon knowledge and skills. More information will be provided by class teachers; however, projects usually take the form of model making, crafts, fact files or PowerPoint presentations.