



Home Learning Policy

Reviewed on September 2016

HOME LEARNING POLICY

WHAT IS HOME LEARNING?

Home Learning is any activity which children are involved in outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, either on their own or with others. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with home learning.

Aims and objectives

At JSS Private School we aim to provide opportunities for students to develop skills and attitudes for successful lifelong learning. As a school we work with parents in partnership, engaging them in their child's learning wherever possible.

We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; students benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. We see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for students to develop as independent learners.

We are well aware that students spend more time at home than at school and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

The objectives of Home Learning are to:

- engage parents in their child's learning and to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents;
- consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to provide opportunities for practising skills taught in lessons;
- ensure progression of skills in key areas across the curriculum;
- share and celebrate project based learning in school;
- develop students' inquiry skills

- develop students as independent learners;
- encourage students to become enthusiastic and reflective learners.
- help students develop good study and time management skills for the future.

1. EXPECTATIONS

- 1.1 We expect all students to value the whole learning experience offered to them. Learning is a lifelong skill and this includes experiences outside the classroom.
- 1.2 All students must complete Home Learning.
- 1.3 When Home Learning is completed and returned, the teacher will mark the Home Learning. However, it may not be as detailed as the specific marking used with learning that has taken place in school.
- 1.4 Since Home Learning can take many forms e.g. work for a class presentation, it may not have a formal mark displayed on it. The teacher will be aware of who has completed Home Learning and who has not and will send out a reminder to students and parents regarding incomplete tasks.
- 1.5 When Home Learning has been given to consolidate learning, the teacher will establish levels of understanding. If a student has shown that they do not understand they will be given further guidance and support.

2 TYPES OF HOME LEARNING

2.1 We provide a variety of Home Learning experiences which includes:

- reading books and questioning;
- phonics practice;
- research based activities e.g. using the internet or interviewing/talking to family members;
- specific literacy focussed learning to consolidate previous learning;
- specific numeracy focussed learning to consolidate previous learning. This might include playing a maths game or a practical activity like measuring ingredients for a recipe;
- project (relevant to year group and preparation for transition). Examples may include designing and presenting a poster or PowerPoint, making a movie, creating a piece of art work. The tasks can be endless with this and allow the children to really use their imagination;
- consolidation tasks.

2.2 However, Home Learning activities do not have to be prescribed by the Teacher and may include reading, attending a club, taking responsibility for a family pet, playing a board game, visiting a Museum,

going swimming etc. All of which are invaluable developmental activities. We believe that Home Learning activities should be challenging, interesting and enjoyable.

3 PARENTS AS PARTNERS

3.1 Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Parents are partners with school in the child's learning experiences. Parents are encouraged to let the child's teacher know if Home Learning has not been completed for any reason, or if Home Learning is too difficult or too easy. The best way to do this is to comment on the Home Learning or in the Student Planner.

3.2 Parents are encouraged to take an interest in their children's Home Learning and learning in general, to discuss it with them and to give them support when necessary, but not to do it for them.

4 INCLUSION

We aim to meet the needs of individual students in school. All students are entitled to access Home Learning at a level appropriate to their individual needs. Gifted and talented students need to be challenged with open ended tasks which provide opportunities to tackle more complex Home Learning. If a student has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that he / she can contribute successfully.

When setting home learning to students who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

5 MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will reviewed annually by the SLT in conjunction with feedback from staff, students and parents