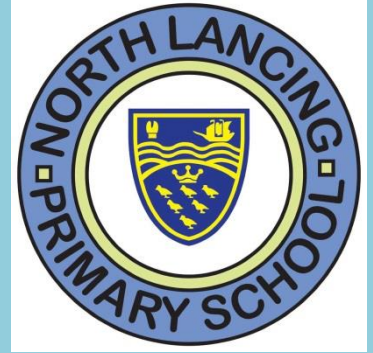


# **NORTH LANCING PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **Home-Learning Policy**

To be reviewed annually



# North Lancing Primary School

## Home-Learning Policy

### Aims

At North Lancing we see home-learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and families that should play a positive role in child development. As a result, home-learning should provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning. We aim to encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences. Home-learning will therefore encompass a variety of activities instigated by teachers and families to support learning.

We also acknowledge the importance of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst home-learning activities can benefit children greatly, it should not prevent pupils from taking part in the wide range of out of school clubs and events available to them. Neither should it negatively impact family time and activities.

However, we are aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and that we can best develop their skills, interest and talents when we work together to encourage pupils to gain the most from experiences and opportunities that are available to them outside of school.

### Partnership

At North Lancing Primary we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with home-learning activities. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved (as long as they do not take over too much!). We do appreciate that there will be occasions where parents are unable to support however and therefore tasks will be designed to be achievable independently as well as with adult support.

### Why is home-learning important?

- It can help encourage a lifelong love of learning
- It can raise your children's achievement
- It consolidates and extends the work they have done in school
- It helps to inform you about your children's school work and allows and gives you the opportunity to support this work
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment.

### What sort of activities should children be doing?

Our home-learning activities are related to the work your children are doing (or about to do) at school but will not always be written tasks.

#### For young children it will usually be:

- Reading with parents or carers
- Games or activities to practice literacy, maths or other skills
- Phonics activities

For older children, home-learning may also include:

- Reading
- Preparing a presentation to the class
- Retention work – practising skills they have previously learnt
- Finding out information
- Designing or making something
- Trying out a simple scientific experiment
- Solving problems
- Completing literacy, maths or other work

### **Feedback on your child's home-learning activities**

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Certificates are often awarded for projects. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, or written comments may be given on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with an activity, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the problem with us yourself.

### **Should I help my child with home-learning activities?**

Home-learning activities allow you to see what your children are doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education.

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much! If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right.

### **Things you can do to help your child learn:**

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement. You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning. Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible. Research suggests that to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves, for at least 20 minutes a day has a significant impact on progress.
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
4. Make use of your local library. Look out for special events and services for children.
5. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting. Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.
6. If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about what has been watched. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.
7. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the home-learning activity.
8. Try to set time aside to support your child's home-learning activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
9. Encourage your child to discuss home-learning with you, including feedback from teachers.
10. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of home-learning.
11. Help your child to see the importance of home-learning and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.
12. Remind your children to complete and hand in home-learning activities on time.

**Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your children to succeed.**