



The Oaks CE Learning Federation Home Learning Policy

Our Vision

Connected through the values of love, respect and compassion. Three separate schools, we journey together to grow physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, so that everyone can fulfil their potential. We strive to preserve the wonder of childhood, whilst ensuring our children are future ready.

*“Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid nor be dismayed for the lord your God is with you wherever you go”
Joshua 1:9*

We believe home learning offers a valuable opportunity to support every child in reaching their potential. There are numerous pieces of research to support the notion, that those children who are supported at home, achieve better in school. Therefore this policy aims to set out the Oaks Federation’s approach to home learning for all our pupils.

This policy is also written in line with our underpinning values:

Love – We want the best for every child. There may be times where we recognise that additional home learning, outside of the remits of this policy will be beneficial. Where this is the case, your child’s class teacher will organise a mutually beneficial time to discuss this with you. Home learning should enable families to enjoy quality time together, further cementing relationships and strengthen partnership between home and school.

Compassion – “Walking in other’s shoes” - This policy recognises that our pupils work hard in the day, and that time at home should provide ample opportunity to connect with family and friends, as well as rest, relax and recharge. Therefore, our intention is to ensure that any home learning set is meaningful, achievable and supports learning in the classroom. We recognise that for all our pupils, they learn best when they feel safe, relaxed and are stress free. We would ask all parents to keep this in mind when supporting home learning and speak with your child’s teacher if home learning is becoming stressful or challenging at home.

Respect – Every child is capable of learning. At the same time, sometimes learning can be tricky. It is absolutely fine to ask for advice, help and support from our staff at school, both on how to best support your child or extend them. We respect that for some families, guidance on how to further support your child can be appreciated. Therefore you will also find additional resources and ideas on our website on how to extend your child if desired.

Home learning expectations

Reading

We ask for every family to support their child, in engaging with reading at home, for at least 5 days out of 7. Reading can include:

- Enjoying reading together, valuing books, comics and various reading materials. Reading favourite stories and remembering it is ok to read a book more than once.
- You, as the adult, modelling reading to your child (using a book from home, comic, or your child’s library book)

- Your child reading their ‘colour banded’ reading book to a grown up (remember, it is ok to read the same book more than once!)
- Practicing key words (These can be found on our website – or will be provided to you by your child’s teacher)

When reading a colour banded book – your child will be given a ‘book mark’ with ideas and questions to support you in supporting your child’s reading (see appendix 1)

Curriculum learning

Throughout the year, your child’s teacher will also send you an overview of the learning planned, in school, for your child’s next ‘theme’. This will provide you the key learning, which your child will be engaged with, but also provide some useful ideas of additional learning, which you could do at home to support your child with their learning in school.

Additional home learning opportunities.

There may be times when we ask you to engage in additional tasks at home, for example:

Tasks to support individual education/ positive behaviour targets
 Activities recommended by an external professional, such as speech therapist, child psychologists
 Activities aimed to target specific gaps in learning
 Activities to support children in catching up missed learning – for example where attendance has dropped and key concepts missed.

These tasks will always be explained with an attached letter or through discussion with a member of school staff.

What else can I do at home?

There are many activities which families already do at home, which support the children’s learning in school. As well as promoting academic skills, we would encourage families to:

Talk to each other as much as possible – modelling great use of language
 Developing life skills such as fastening buttons, tying shoe laces, doing up zips.
 Providing opportunities to apply social skills i.e. play dates, parks etc.
 Play games – practicing turn taking and modelling how to be a ‘good’ loser and ‘good’ winner
 Colouring and painting
 Walking and exploring the outdoors
 Cooking and baking
 Engaging in out of school clubs
 Bike rides
 Gardening
 Building with construction toys
 Learning new skills such as sewing!

Appendix 1 – example reading book marks

(used from September 2021)