

EDMUND WALLER SCHOOL

HOME LEARNING POLICY



Edmund Waller School recognises that homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment and the importance that both setting homework can have in motivating children to become independent learners. However, we also want to cherish and value the importance of free-time and play in a child's growth and development, and we recognise all the wonderful informal learning that takes place as children grow and become more confident and motivated to learn on their own and interact with their world.

This homework policy – or as we like to call it our **Home Learning Policy** – outlines important aims and objectives of setting work for home and identifies three main ways in which we promote home learning and the practical support we want to give to all pupils and parents. It provides the time allocation that the Government recommends for children at different ages and stages to spend on home learning each week. It also gives you a check list which you can discuss with your child's teacher to help you assess whether your child is coping with the work set for home and how we can improve the communication between teacher and parent.

1) AIMS and OBJECTIVES OF HOME LEARNING POLICY

Children spend more time at home than at school and it's believed that 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 the school. The aim of Edmund Waller Home Learning Policy is therefore to:

- ✓ Encourage a greater effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.
- ✓ Help consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding especially in numeracy and literacy and extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- ✓ Exploit the resources for learning of all kinds at home and promote different kinds of learning.
- ✓ Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to 'study on their own' and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.
- ✓ Ensure that differentiated tasks are provided for the different levels of abilities of children at different stages.
- ✓ Ensure that the Policy is consistent across year groups and classes and is regularly reviewed.

It's not just pupils who fear those two dreaded words "home" and "work". Many of us as parents also worry: Are my children getting enough? Do they have too much? Should I be doing more to support them?

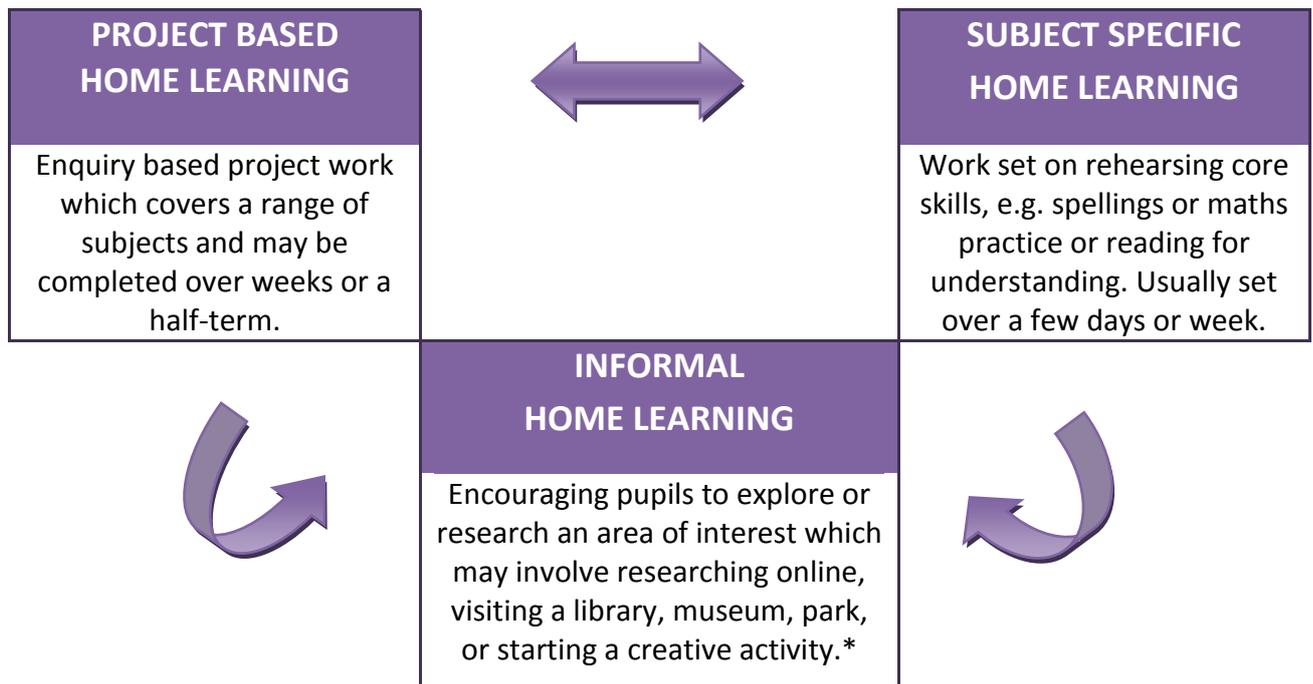
At Edmund Waller our vision is to help all our pupils succeed and thrive in their learning. We also want to promote their love of learning in a variety of ways.

That's why we're re-launching our Home Work policy and re-naming it a **HOME LEARNING** policy to recognise the range of ways in which the school can help parents and carers support their children's learning.

This is the summary of a full document available from the school office.

2) THE THREE TYPES OF HOME LEARNING ACTIVITY WHICH THE SCHOOL PROMOTES

Homework set broadly falls into one of three areas, all of which have different strengths and value.



**The school runs a range of after school clubs which aim to extend learning, sport and creative arts.*

3) SUGGESTED TIME ALLOCATIONS FOR HOMEWORK

The time and activity recommendations that the Government (DCSF) give for homework for children:

YEAR	TIME ALLOCATION	HOME WORK ACTIVITY
Nursery	10 mins per day	✓ Daily reading and Topic Homework where parents discuss items (photographs/toys etc) with their child before child brings the item into school to support the topics taught.
Reception	10 minutes per day	✓ Daily reading and topic related homework.
Year 1	One hour per week	✓ Reading, Phonics, Topic work or maths.
Year 2	One hour per week	✓ Reading, phonics, spelling, topic work, maths or multiplication.
Year 3	One and a half hours per week	✓ Reading, times tables, spelling, and topic related homework.
Year 4	One and a half hours per week	✓ Reading, times tables, spelling, and topic related homework.
Year 5	Two hours per week	✓ Reading times tables, spelling and topic related homework. Two projects (enquiry based homework) related to a class topic/theme produced in the Autumn and Spring term.
Year 6	Two and a half hours per week	✓ Reading, times tables, spelling and topic related homework. An open-ended creative project (Enquiry Based Homework).

4) CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

However comprehensive a home learning policy is, it is not effective if it isn't reviewed, monitored, updated and, most importantly, owned by us all. Communication and consistency is therefore crucial.

Just as every child is different, so we need to ensure that the home learning which the school sets is tailored to the needs of individual pupils. The following checklist outlines important issues and is provided for you so you can review and discuss these points with your child's teacher and really help your child in their home learning. These issues are expanded on more fully in the full Home Learning Policy which is available from the school office.

HOME SCHOOL BOOK	The HOME/SCHOOL book is provided for every pupil and it is crucial that parents and carers review the home learning given and ask their children what work has been set. Parents and carers are encouraged to make comments about the work and how the child approached the work and got on. This is a great way to communicate with your teacher about your child's learning.
SUPPORT FROM HOME	<p>As a parent it's crucial that you provide a peaceful, suitable place in which your child can do their homework. Do you make clear to your children that you value homework and support the school in this activity? Do you encourage and praise your children when they have completed work?</p> <p>The school from time to time will prioritise a subject or activity and run additional support sessions for parents so that they can help their children in their home learning – for example the school has run maths workshops for parents in the past and can repeat these and other subjects if there is demand from parents.</p>
SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)	<p>Homework tasks need to be clearly differentiated according to need and should bear some correlation to targets set within the pupil's Individual Education Plan (IEP). There will clearly be occasions when children with SEN may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the gifted or more able child needs to be given homework that will use their full ability and skills. Their homework may differ from that set for the majority of the class. Talk to your teacher about how you can help your child with additional or different activities which support the learning in the classroom.</p>
ICT AND THE SCHOOL WEBSITE	Increasingly, the school is using ICT to support learning and on occasions teachers will encourage students to use the internet. Talk to your teacher if you do not have access to the internet and alternative arrangements will be made. The school website will soon list a number of great online resources such as websites, games, TV programmes, and comics which support homework and wider home learning activities. There are also links to free online and paid for resources.

If you have questions about your child's homework please talk to your child's teacher.

A fuller Home Learning document is available from the school website and School Office which lists how this policy is monitored and reviewed.