

Itchen Abbas Primary School

Home Learning Policy



At Itchen Abbas Primary School, we believe that all children should be encouraged to extend their learning beyond the classroom and at home. Therefore, our Home Learning Policy is underpinned by evidence-informed principles. Tasks are designed to be:

Purposeful – clearly linked to key knowledge and skills being taught in school

Manageable – achievable within a reasonable time without causing stress

Independent – pupils can complete tasks with minimal adult input

Focused on practice – particularly retrieval, fluency and consolidation

Accessible to all – taking into account differing home circumstances

Aims

The aims of this Home Learning Policy are to:

- Promote the practise of basic English and Maths (reading, spelling, number facts and times tables) at home.
- Encourage all children to develop their learning beyond the classroom.
- Encourage positive learning relationships between children, teachers and parents and carers.
- Ensure consistency and high standards of home learning across the school.

Purpose of Home Learning

At Itchen Abbas, we believe the purpose of home learning is to:

- Primarily focus on consolidation, practice and retrieval of learning already taught in school. Occasionally, enrichment or optional exploratory tasks may be provided to extend curiosity and interests.
- Encourage a love of learning.
- Provide frequent and regular, short practice opportunities for basic skills.
- Extend, revise, practise, reinforce and consolidate current learning and skills.
- Encourage children's interaction with parents and carers at home.
- Encourage children's ownership and responsibility for their learning.
- Develop parents' and carers' understanding of their child's learning.
- Promote a balance between time allocated for home learning and play.
- Prepare children for the smooth transition to secondary school.

Home learning will be designed so that it does not create unnecessary workload for staff, pupils or families.

Appropriate Home Learning

Reading

Reading is the most important element of home learning across the school. All children are expected to read regularly at home, supported by discussion with an adult where appropriate.

At Itchen Abbas, we believe that the following activities are appropriate for home learning:

Early Years (Year R)

- Daily reading – child reading, re-reading books to develop fluency and prediction, discussion about what they have read, a variety of non-fiction and fiction of different genres and reading from the environment.
- Daily reading – children listening to fluent readers reading to them and discussing the text together, to promote a love of reading.
- Learning independence skills such as using cutlery, being able to dress themselves.
- Practising phonics.
- Playing games (including games that develop language and using maths skills such as counting, adding scores etc).
- Practical activities e.g. cooking and dressing up, drawing and cutting, talking together.

Key stage 1 – Years 1 and 2

- Daily reading – child reading, re-reading books to develop fluency and prediction, discussion about what they have read, a variety of non-fiction and fiction of different genres and reading from the environment.
- Daily reading – children listening to fluent readers reading to them and discussing the text together, to promote a love of reading.
- Learning independence skills such as using cutlery, being able to dress themselves.
- Practising phonics, spellings and Maths, including times tables and number facts.

Key stage 2 – Years 3-6

- Daily reading – child reading, re-reading books to develop fluency and prediction, discussion about what they have read, a variety of non-fiction and fiction of different genres and reading from the environment.
- Regular reading – children listening to fluent readers reading to them and discussing the text together, to promote a love of reading.
- English: spellings; handwriting and speaking and listening activities; activity linked to writing focus/unit.
- Maths: practical, real-life maths activities and games including times tables
- Yr. 6 will include revision for KS2 SATS

The following are suggested maximum weekly guidelines:

- **EYFS:** Daily reading and informal learning through play
- **Key Stage 1:** 10–20 minutes per day (primarily reading and phonics)
- **Key Stage 2:** 20–30 minutes per day (reading plus basic skills practice)

Home learning should not place undue pressure on pupils or families. Flexibility will always be applied.

We recognise that pupils have differing levels of support and resources at home. Home learning will therefore:

- Not rely on access to technology unless alternatives are provided
- Be achievable without adult teaching or specialist support
- Be flexible where needed
- Where barriers exist, the school will provide appropriate support or adapt expectations.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To ensure home learning suggestions are purposeful and link directly to the curriculum.
- To support children to change their reading books regularly, developing independence over time.
- To recognise children's efforts in home learning. Home learning will not always be formally marked. However, it will be:
 - Acknowledged in class
 - Used to inform teaching
 - Celebrated where appropriate
 - Feedback may be verbal, through class discussion, or incorporated into lessons.

Role of Parents and Carers

- To work alongside the school to develop their child's basic skills by supporting their child with regular and frequent practice.
- To become actively involved in and support their child with home learning activities.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their home learning.
- To provide feedback to children on their home learning.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their home learning.
- To sign and return any reading record books to school.

Role of the Child

- To complete home learning activities to the best of their ability.
- To ask their parents or teacher for help if they are struggling with the home learning.
- To take responsibility for having their reading books in school daily and changing their books regularly.

Role of the Head Teacher and Governing Body including monitoring

- To monitor compliance with the policy.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To inform new parents and carers to the school, so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and home learning expectations and what it entails.

The Headteacher and Governing Body will monitor the implementation of this policy through:

- Discussions with staff, parents and children
- Review of home learning expectations across classes
- Consideration of parent feedback

The policy will be adapted in response to this evaluation.

Date ratified by Governors: June 2026

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

Date for review June 2028