

General Policy Document

**Document Name: Home Learning Policy**

First Written Date: October 2017

**Review Date: March 2021**

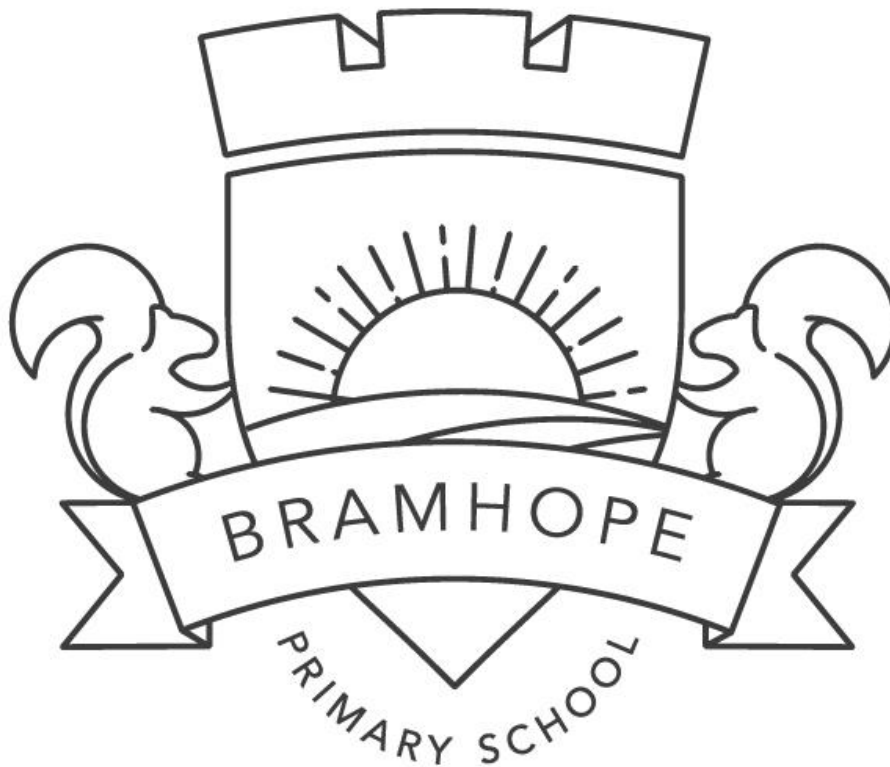
Reviewed By: All Staff

Ratified By Full Governors Date: March 2021

**Next Review Date: March 2022**



Document No: GP001



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## Home Learning Policy

### **Our philosophy:**

Home learning is a controversial topic, so to inform what we do we have planned our policy around what research says about the most effective ways of doing things. Current research suggests the following principles:

- Activities that involve the parent and child working together on something or talking about work in school can be effective
- Regular daily homework in the form of worksheets which a child is expected to do unaided can have a negative effect in terms of putting children off learning
- The most effective thing any parent can do to help their child succeed at school is to read with them.

### **Our aims:**

- Recognise and celebrate learning that already happens at home
- Promote parents and children reading and talking together
- Provide opportunities for pupils to develop a growth mindset
- Provide opportunities for pupils to feel proud about pushing themselves beyond what is compulsory
- Encourage perseverance, self-discipline and pupils taking responsibility for their own learning
- Enable children to develop their learning independently, without the teacher's presence
- Be explicit with children about which homework is compulsory and which is optional
- Allow time for children to pursue interests outside of school and enable them to have unstructured time to themselves, including time to rest and relax
- Be explicit with parents about the ways in which they can help their child at home
- Help parents plan their time by offering flexibility with weekly home learning
- Communicate with parents if their child is not completing their homework
- Allow time for children to pursue interests outside of school and enable them to have unstructured time to themselves, including time to rest and relax

### **Our expectations:**

#### **Daily Home Learning:**

**Reading** (all children) We recommend **up to 20 minutes a day**. This includes reading a range of texts,

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discussing the vocabulary, asking and answering questions and being read to

**Learning** (all children) We **recommend 5-10 minutes a day**. This includes spellings/phonics and key maths facts (KIRFs)

### **Weekly Home Learning:**

- **Mathletics (Y1-6)** This will set by each class teacher but children may choose to do more
- **Rock stars / times tables (Y3-6 only)** This will set by each class teacher but children may choose to do more
- **Practising and Applying (Y4 – Y6 only)** up to one hour (total) a week. This could be a reading comprehension, maths problems (including mathletics) and/or a writing task.

### **Optional Home Learning:**

- **Homework menu** This will be issued half termly by each class teacher

### **Our rationale**

We would like all children to complete their daily home learning activities. This establishes routines and helps to develop a strong work ethic, self -motivation and greater independence. However, we do recognise that there are occasions where it may not be possible for children to complete their homework. In order to encourage home-school communication, parents should always be informed if their child has not completed an agreed, home learning task and a class teacher has not been informed why. The class teacher and parent should then negotiate an extension for completing the work as well as a sanction if appropriate.

### **Reading**

The more children practise reading, the easier and more enjoyable it will become. Children who do not practise reading at home are very likely to fall behind and may well struggle throughout their school careers. The more parents read to their children, the larger their vocabulary will grow and the more they will develop their own love of reading. We encourage all children to read a range of texts including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Children should read a range of authors. They should read 'real' books as well as school reading books and may also choose to read magazines, newspapers or online. All children have a library lesson in school each week; we have links to age appropriate suggested reading lists on our website and 'gold star' (recommended) books are available in each library.

### **Learning**

When trying to learn spellings, tables facts or maths facts by rote, it is much more effective to practise 'little and often' rather once a week. The more children practise these, the easier they will be to remember. The quicker they can remember them automatically, the more their brain has space to work on other, higher level things. It is also important to stress that if we do not practise maths facts and spellings regularly, we will begin to forget them. That is why even older pupils will occasionally be given easy number facts and spellings – just to check they can still recall these instantly. When testing children on their spellings, please ensure that they can understand and explain the meaning of the word. Children may be asked to explain the meaning as part of their test; they may be asked to give an example of a word in the same family or asked to use the word in context, for example as part of dictation.

Children may also occasionally be asked to learn other facts that will develop their general knowledge or inform their learning at school.

### **Talking**

Our mission statement states that 'Bramhope is a place where children are knowledgeable and curious about the world.' We encourage children to ask and answer questions, listen to others, explore ideas and extend their learning through discussion. As part of their home learning, children will therefore sometimes ask parents about their opinions and experiences as a means of developing their own views and understanding of the world. Children will not usually be asked to write anything following their talking homework.

### **Mathletics and Times Tables rock stars**

Children are expected to know all their tables facts to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4. In years 1-6, children have a login to practise tables facts and apply skills they have learnt in a range of contexts. Children may be working individually or may be asked to work on a particular topic. Class teachers will monitor the work remotely.

### **Practising and Applying**

These maths, reading and writing activities are designed to allow your child to practise and become fluent in the knowledge they have been acquiring in School as well as apply their knowledge in a range of contexts.

### **Optional home learning**

Each half term children will receive a list of suggested activities to do with their parents at home. These are optional learning challenges and nobody is expected to do them.

### **Reception**

In Reception, alongside reading, phonics and handwriting, your child will receive an optional home learning sheet. This gives you guidance and information about Reception's current learning journey and topics of interest in school. It suggests practical ways in which you can enrich the learning experience at home through talking, exploring, making and asking and answering questions.

### **Additional work**

Children of any age may occasionally be asked to do additional work including spelling and handwriting. Children will not be asked to regularly complete additional work unless it is part of an individual learning plan which has been agreed with parents.

### **Evaluation of the Policy**

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated by the senior management team on a biyearly cycle. Any problems or areas that are not appearing to be successfully upheld by staff will then be brought to the attention of staff and the policy will be reviewed and further training will be given depending on the needs perceived.