

# Ark Tindal Primary Academy



## HOME LEARNING POLICY

## **Whole-School Home Learning Policy**

---

<b>Contents:</b>	<b>Page</b>
How the School Aims Inform the Policy	<b>3</b>
The Core Aims, Principles and Intentions of the Policy which Contribute to our School Ethos	<b>3</b>
Expectations for Home Learning	<b>3 &amp; 4</b>
Home learning club and support for Parents and Carers	<b>4</b>
<b>Appendix A:</b>	<b>5</b>
How Parents and Carers can best support their child	

## How the School Aims Inform the Policy

The Whole-School Home Learning Policy is based on the School Aims as follows:

**To create** a positive learning environment which promotes the development of children in the fullest sense and their learning and success in school.

**To empower** children, by encouraging them to develop:

- enthusiastic, enquiring minds
- the ability to question and present rational arguments
- an independent, positive and engaged approach to learning

**To help** children realise their full potential through the highest quality of learning, teaching and experiences across the whole-school curriculum (intellectual, social, physical, ethical and spiritual).

**To prepare** children for the future, including secondary school and the world of work.

## School Ethos

The Whole-School Home Learning Policy has at its core these principles and intentions:

- *At Ark Tindal Academy, we value the constructive and positive contribution that each individual brings to school and the important part that each parent/carer plays in supporting their child's learning and development*
- *At Ark Tindal Academy, we offer support, encouragement and enthusiasm. We have high expectations of children's work and attitudes to learning; we aim to develop independence and resilience in approaches to learning.*

Home learning gives children tasks they must complete in their own time and so introduces them to the responsibilities of remembering, managing their time, and working independently. It provides an opportunity for children to consolidate skills, knowledge and concepts as well as finish incomplete learning. Home learning will be set in a regular pattern according to the age and ability of the child. Parents/carers will be informed of this at the start of the academic year and in subsequent newsletters from the teachers. Home learning tasks are intended as an extension of class work and provide opportunity for consolidation or extension. On occasion, it may be used as a diagnostic tool at the start of a topic.

## Expectations for Home learning

All children will be expected to read, or be read to, on a daily basis. They will also be set tasks linked to their Mathematics and Literacy work.

### *Mathematics*

Children may be encouraged to practise number patterns, counting or bonds. Parents should be encouraged to discuss everyday problem-solving situations or investigations with their children, as this will help their child progress from practical tasks to more abstract mathematical concepts.

### *Literacy*

Children may be asked to carry out activities to practise their letter sounds, spellings support their ability to construct sentences, develop their ability to retell events using the appropriate vocabulary, tell stories using the correct story language and other activities to support their in class learning.

#### *Reading*

At Ark Tindal Primary Academy all children are expected to home a book to read/share. Children should take their reading books home every day. Parents must sign and date the reading record every day, to show that their child has read the book to them or that they have read the book to their child. Parents can also record any comments for their child's teacher in the reading record.

If a parent does not sign the reading record, the class teacher should speak to them at the end of that day. If a parent habitually fails to sign the record, they should be referred to the Headteacher.

#### *Phonics*

Children should be encouraged to practise their phonic sounds and High Frequency Words at home.

#### *Foundation Subjects/Areas of learning*

Children may also be set projects/tasks to complete that link to topic-based learning that they are involved in. This will usually be set by the head teacher over a holiday period.

### **Home Learning support for parents/carers**

At Ark Tindal Primary Academy, all children are expected to complete Home learning tasks. If they fail to do so, teachers will contact parents/carers and request a meeting to discuss the reasons and possible support that may be needed.

Parents and carers who wish to raise concerns/ask questions about Home learning may do so by attending regular coffee mornings led by the Pastoral team or contacting their child's class teacher to arrange a meeting.

Regular INSPIRE workshops held at school and newsletters will be used as a means by which class teachers can keep parents up-to-date with information about the latest procedures for Home learning.

### **How Parents and Carers can best support their child:**

As your child begins their homework, check that they know what to do. They should try to do the homework without your help, but you can offer support and assistance whenever they need it.

Most of the exercises can be done in one session, although some of the tasks may involve doing something over several days, such as keeping a record of how long it takes to get to school.

Providing the right setting for homework is an important part of supporting your child. This includes:

#### **Routine**

Routine is important: try to find a regular time when your child is not too tired, for example, a weekend morning or just after school. It should be a time when you are able to give support if needed.

#### **Distractions**

Make sure they are sitting in a good writing position at a table and that it's in a reasonably quiet place; it should be well lit and clear of clutter. Encourage others in the house not to distract your child during their homework time!

Make sure your child isn't tired, hungry, thirsty, cold or irritated when they sit down to do their homework. These all get in the way of concentration and learning.

#### **Praise and encourage**

As a parent you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence – and confidence is vital to learning.

If your child is unsure about the homework, read through the tasks with them and ask 'prompting' questions, such as:

**“Can you explain to me what you are doing?”**

**“How are you going to do this?”**

**“How do you know what to do?”**

**“What do you need to find out?”**

When you discuss homework in this way with your child they can take the role of the 'teacher' and explain to you what's expected. This in itself can be an important learning exercise.

Always be generous with support, praise and encouragement!

Try to give specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work, saying something like:

**“I like the way you have...”**

When you praise, also try to find ways to encourage them onwards, such as

**“Do you think you could try the same thing using...”**

(for example, an even longer sentence/an even bigger number)

And always encourage your child to take a real pride in their work.

*NB: Help and support for homework can be given by any trusted person – it could be a brother, sister, grandparent or neighbour. And it doesn't have to be the same person every time either! Use the language you normally use at home. Homework can be discussed in any language!*

**Remember to contact your child's class teacher immediately should you have any concerns or questions about Home Learning.**