

# **BROMET PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **HOME LEARNING POLICY**

### **Why do learning at home?**

We want to develop an effective partnership between home and school so that the aims of the school can be achieved.

We want to provide information to parents and carers about work that is happening in school and provide opportunities for them to help each child.

We want to consolidate and reinforce pupils' skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy and support children in attaining their personal curriculum targets.

We want to extend school learning.

We want to develop personal qualities in pupils; self-esteem, confidence and self-discipline.

We want to provide opportunities for independent study, which use all forms of resources at home.

We want to prepare pupils for secondary school demands.

### **Practice**

It is expected that home learning activities be completed on time. If there are temporary adverse home circumstances the parent/carer should note this in the home liaison diary or otherwise contact the teacher.

Children receive home learning activities from school on a consistent and regular basis. The teaching staff give written instructions to parents at the beginning of the school year about the nature, quantity, type and frequency of home learning activity within that class.

In Key Stage 2 each pupil has a home liaison diary in which the home learning assignments are written and dated; it acts as a two-way dialogue between teacher and parent/carer. We ask that parents/carers sign these books weekly and wherever possible initial the instructions when the activity has been completed.

The teacher will acknowledge home learning assignments. Pupils are given feedback in a variety of ways. Home learning assignments must be manageable for all concerned.

Home learning assignments are determined by; the demands of the curriculum, targets set in the pupil's annual report, and current class assessments. Each class and individuals have different targets. Home learning assignments will be differentiated and matched to the different learning needs of the pupils.

Children experiencing temporary difficulties may have measures put in place to support them, e.g. Teacher supervises home learning club in school

Staff mark home learning assignments and file with other similar work on a regular basis.

### **Foundation stage and Key Stage 1**

The demands that can be placed on reception children and seven-year-olds will be different. At the beginning of the school year class teachers give advice to parents about the class requirements.

Reading books come home about twice a week. Teachers will advise you of strategies to employ when hearing children read.

Cursive handwriting (joined up) is taught from the beginning and can really benefit from practice at home.

Maths games and activities help children find that maths is fun!

Children may have spellings, letter patterns and number bonds to learn.

Children may be asked to research their family history, or find out about something to share with the rest of the class.

## **Key Stage 2**

The teachers inform parents of these each year in the autumn curriculum class evenings. Home learning assignments are linked closely with class activities. The pace of class work is very fast and home learning is a vital part of pupils' learning process - it allows them to consolidate and practice skills. Children who do not complete home learning assignments are seriously disadvantaged and may result in break time detention to get tasks completed

**Topic studies** - Children may have research, drawings or writing to do to enhance independent study skills.

**Projects**- Children may be asked to complete an extended study on various areas of the curriculum within a specific timescale.

## **Special Educational Needs**

Children with special needs may have additional individual tasks, which will have been separately discussed with parents/carers and pupils. Home learning activities will be suitable for the needs of each individual.

## **Time**

In Key Stage 1 particularly in the early years each home learning session should not last more than about 15 minutes.

In Key Stage 2 home learning assignments are more demanding, particularly in the later years. Our advice is for children not to spend more than about 20/30 minutes per session in years 3 and 4 extending to about 45 minutes in years 5 and 6. Reading should take about another 15/20 minutes each evening.

At the beginning of the autumn term each teacher prepares a handout for the parents detailing when, where and how home learning activity operates in that class.

## **Expectations**

We expect that all home learning assignments will be completed on time. A careful record is kept of returned assignments. Further opportunities are offered to children who had unexpected difficulties that week. If unsatisfactory reasons for non-completion are offered, older children will be expected to use break or lunchtimes to complete tasks to enable them to keep up. Where home learning assignments are regularly not completed parents/carers will be required to discuss this aspect of the home-school agreement with their child's class teacher.

### **Suggestions for parents/carers**

- Please provide a place to study
- Show pupils that home learning is valued.
- Encourage and praise children
- Wherever possible become actively involved in home learning activities
- The emphasis at Key stage 1 is on sharing learning.
- Remember it is **the child's responsibility** (particularly at Key Stage 2) to do their home learning assignments, it is intended that children develop independent study skills.

### **Note**

At certain times of the year the timetable is modified for example during assessment weeks. The usual home learning pattern in the class may be adjusted or even temporarily suspended, for example when teachers are writing reports.

### **Review**

This policy will be regularly reviewed and amended where necessary. It will be placed in the brochure for new parents and revised copies sent to all existing parents.

Autumn 2013 to be reviewed