

## Ayios Nikolaos Home Learning Policy

Review Date: September 2020

Date of Next Review: September 2021

**Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Baillie**

**SGC Chair: Lt Col S Clifford**

Educating children is successful when there is a strong partnership with the children, parents and teachers.

### Rationale:

At Ayios Nikolaos Primary School, our vision is to develop successful learners within a learning culture. We recognise that life-long learning takes place in all aspects of peoples' lives – not just in the classroom.

For the children in our school, learning at home is believed to be an essential part of education. Home learning or homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

### Purposes of Home Learning:

Ayios Nikolaos Primary School, home learning should:

- reinforce and consolidate classroom learning.
- help children to develop independent learning skills, including research skills.
- provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy learning experiences together.
- inspire children to want to extend their own learning.
- be accessible for all children, including those with dyslexia or literacy difficulties, at their level of understanding.
- help children develop good work habits for the future.

### Guidelines:

The Government agrees that a sensible programme of home learning activities for children in Key Stage 1 should be designed to take, on average, one hour per week. At Key Stage 2 the expectations should gradually increase so that by years 5 and 6 children are spending about 2 ½ hours over the week on homework.

Recommended time allocations for home learning at Ayios Nikolaos Primary School:

Foundation Stage 2	Building to 10 minutes per day	Sharing and exploring books Phonic and spelling and mathematics activities - on alternate weeks. Key words to read/spell, phoneme cards are ongoing
Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week	Phonic activities, spellings, other English and mathematics work. Additional time to be spent on reading throughout the week.

Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week	English and mathematics homework with occasional assignments in other curriculum areas. Remaining time over the week to be spent on reading, spelling and timetables practice.
Years 5 and 6	2.5 hours per week	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on English and mathematics but can range widely over the curriculum. Remaining time over the week to be spent on reading, spelling and timetables practice.

### **Curriculum Newsletters:**

At the beginning of each half term children will bring home a leaflet which outlines the learning for their class for the half term ahead. This leaflet gives you ideas of how parents can support children in developing their learning skills as well as providing information about when weekly homework will be set and when it should be returned.

### **Class Learning Challenges:**

As part of their Imaginative Learning Projects the children are occasionally set class challenges to support their learning. These challenges help to develop a deeper understanding of theme work as well as developing social, evaluation and problem-solving skills.

### **Unfinished Work:**

Children may also be asked to complete a reasonable amount of class work which should have been completed in class time e.g. if the learner has chosen not to complete a particular task in the time given. If this is the case, the class teacher will contact the parent to explain the reasons for this work coming home.

We encourage and expect all children to work hard during the school term. At Ayios Nikolaos Primary School we believe that families should use holiday times to relax and enjoy their time together. Therefore, the consulted stakeholders of Ayios Nikolaos Primary School have decided on a 'No Holiday Home Learning' policy for the **end of term** breaks.

### **Extra-ordinary Home Learning:**

There are some cases where alternative or extra-ordinary home learning may arise.

The School encourages good attendance and holidays during term time will not be authorised. Term time absences can only be authorised by the Headteacher in exceptional circumstances. Where appropriate work, is sent home to complete during absence; this is done in consultation with the Class Teacher.

At Ayios Nikolaos Primary School, we recognise that setting the right type of home learning for a wide ability range of children is not always easy. Some children may benefit from special tasks, separate from the home learning set for the rest of the class. On the other hand, it is important that they should do as much in common with the other children as possible.

If a child is invited to take part in an intervention programme for English or mathematics, an additional piece of home learning may be required. Parents will be consulted about this and their commitment secured before their child begins the programme.

## **Use of ICT:**

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease of speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Class teachers will advise of websites that will support children in their learning specific to their curriculum and year group. Additionally, some of the most important educational software we use in school is available, or can be bought, by parents on a home-user license. This ensures that children are using age-appropriate software in their work at home. The school will supply interested parents with details.

## **Expectations at Ayios Nikolaos Primary:**

### ***Role of School Governance Committee***

The School Governance Committee will:

- To support the Head Teacher with ensuring the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

### ***Role of Head Teacher***

The Headteacher will:

- Promote this policy by raising its status and importance.
- Ensure that homework is built into teachers' planning.
- Provide supportive guidance for parents.
- Keep up to date with new developments with regards to homework.
- Monitor and evaluate this policy.

### ***Role of the Teachers***

Teachers must:

- Integrate homework into their planning.
- Set interesting tasks and activities.
- Set homework appropriate for each child.
- Take account of learning needs such as dyslexia when setting and differentiating homework.
- Explain when, what and how the work is done so that each child clearly understands.
- Provide opportunities for sharing of home learning in class and provide feedback.
- Print homework on pastel coloured paper for learners with visual stress.

### ***Role of Parents/Carers***

Parents/Carers are asked to:

- Support the homework set.
- Read with your child and make a note in the reading record book.
- Support the School in explaining that all homework is valued and aids learning.
- Encourage and praise children when homework is completed.
- Be actively involved in the homework of the children.
- Make the experience pleasurable – discuss, encourage and praise.
- Contact the Class Teacher/School if you are not sure of some aspect of the homework or your child is experiencing difficulty doing it.

- Contribute to the School/Parent questionnaires so that the School can monitor effectiveness

### ***Role of the Children***

Children are asked to:

- Complete homework and hand it in on time.
- Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is being asked of them.
- Contribute to pupil interviews and questionnaires on homework for the School to monitor and evaluate.
- Complete homework using appropriate writing materials to ensure that presentation of work is at the same standard as school work.
- Have a go at all home learning activities.

### **Monitoring the Effectiveness of this Policy:**

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvements will be made to the School Governance Committee.