

Lady Katherine Leveson  
Church of England Primary School.



Home Learning Policy

*Responsibility of: The Key Stage Leaders*

*Evaluation: Annually, through Curriculum committee*

*Lady Katherine Leveson Church of England Primary School*  
*Policy for Home Learning*

Lady Katherine Leveson Primary School expects pupils to undertake Home Learning, as it makes a valuable contribution towards learning and is an integrated part of the curriculum. It is our belief that Home Learning should be fun, interesting and varied, taking into consideration the age, ability and interests of the children. All Home Learning is acknowledged through the school's marking and feedback procedures and a regular dialogue between parents/carers and teachers is encouraged, in the form of comments in the Home Learning books or reading diaries. It is necessary for parents/carers to support their children in order to help them learn letters, sounds, words, counting, number sums, spellings, reading and multiplication tables, as well as helping children to research, explore and enrich their learning in theme for the half term. Parents/carers are supported with this by a guide to Home Learning, discussions with staff and various parent workshops during the school year. This policy was developed through consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors.

*Executive Summary*

*Purpose:*

- To give a framework for and develop independent learning beyond school
- To encourage a love of learning for life and the development of the habits of a good learner
- To build on knowledge and skills gained in the classroom
- To provide the opportunity for investigation
- To encourage partnership between parents/carers and school
- To exploit the additional resources for learning outside school

*Rationale:*

Home Learning is an integral feature of effective teaching for learning, a powerful tool in raising pupil achievement and a tool for aiding the fulfillment or discovery of potential.

*Key Principles:* Home Learning should...

- Be approached in a positive and supportive manner
- Include challenges to thinking and reasoning skills
- Be carefully structured and planned to take account of varying abilities
- Give opportunities for children to succeed

*Actions / Aims:*

- Involve parents/carers actively in the learning process
- Support and reinforce class learning
- Extend learning time
- Raise attainment
- Strengthen knowledge, understanding, skills and concepts
- Improve rate of progress
- Develop skills for life-long learning and independence

### *Monitoring and Evaluation:*

The efficacy of the Home Learning policy will be reported to the Governing Body through the Curriculum Committee.

*September 2008*

### *Introduction:*

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Home Learning at Lady Katherine Leveson Primary School. It was developed through consultation with children, parents, staff and governors in September 2008 and approved by the Governing Body on 30th September 2008. This policy is reviewed every 2 years.

### *What is Home Learning?*

Home Learning is any kind of learning that takes place beyond the classroom. It is learning which works alongside that which is undertaken in school and either practises and consolidates what has been learnt in school or offers pupils the opportunity for extension and independent learning activities.

Lady Katherine Leveson Primary School recognises that Home Learning can make a valuable contribution to learning, but that to be effective in achieving this, it needs to:

- arise from the learning that takes place in school
- meet needs by being differentiated
- encourage enjoyment of Home Learning by using a variety of methods eg written, drawn, research etc
- be valued by children, parents/carers and teachers

Teaching in school is enhanced by self-directed learning and this assists the raising of standards. Professor John MacBeath states:

“...those who are going to do well in life are marked out by their self-esteem, their motivation and their ability to take responsibility for their own learning. We know that good habits begin to develop at an early age”

At Lady Katherine, we encourage children to be responsible for their learning, including their Home Learning.

### *Principles of Home Learning:*

Home Learning should:

- Be a regular and clear programme, outlined at start of the year
- Take account of National guidelines (Y1 and Y2 – 1 hour per week, Y3 and Y4, 1.5 hours per week, Y5 and Y6 30 mins per day)
- Have clear time guidelines
- Involve Literacy and Numeracy

- Other Home Learning, set as it arises, could be challenges, projects, research or competitions.
- Have prompt and clear feedback; this could be written or oral or a combination. Home Learning may be marked by the children, during lessons or by the teacher. The teacher will always make a written comment on the child's formal, written Home Learning. Other work, discussed orally as a class, will be marked with a 'V' (for verbal feedback).
- Be involved in class work – through discussion, feedback, investigation etc
- Be rewarded, using our Home Learning and House Points. Review class through Councils.
- Have a slot in the weekly timetable, both for explaining and setting, and for discussing and or marking.
- Be varied, allowing for children to extend their thinking and to use the world around them.
- Help provide an opportunity, at times, for development of social and speaking and listening skills.

### *Home Learning Club:*

Home Learning club is available for those children who need to develop their independent learning skills and for those who do not have resources to support effective research at home. This is during the lunchtimes, in the library. Parents/carers are encouraged to come with their child to Home Learning club.

### *Rewarding and Encouraging Home Learning Achievements:*

- Other stickers, house points or certificates may be given for Home Learning that is particularly good for that child.
- The emphasis is on improvement and effort, as well as attainment.

### *Setting and Explaining of Home Learning:*

- **It is expected that all children will read with their parents/carers every night, do age-appropriate number work and learn spellings or phonics. (See Home Learning Format below)**
- **Phonics/Spelling and Numeracy Home Learning is given on a Monday, to be returned on a Friday. Other Home Learning that is given as it arises, such as challenges or research, may be set for over the weekend or other days. In addition, children have a half-termly project on the theme that they are currently studying.**
- All home learning is completed in the children's home learning books. The spelling and maths tests are also carried out in these books, so that parents/carers receive feedback on their child's progress

- All classes have a slot in their timetable for setting and explaining Home Learning.

### *Returning and Marking Home Learning:*

- All classes have a slot in their timetable for marking and discussing Home Learning in class.
- Home Learning may be marked by the child themselves, a child marking partner or the class teacher. The teacher will always put a written comment on formal, written Home Learning
- A dialogue between the children, parents/carers and the teacher is encouraged, through use of the comment boxes in the Home Learning books (Y2-6) and the reading diaries in N-Y1.

### *Roles and responsibilities:*

Teacher's role:

- carefully plan and make relevant the Home Learning
- ensure the children understand the Home Learning
- differentiate the Home Learning as appropriate
- ensure children with Special Educational Needs can access the Home Learning
- ensure that the needs of More Able or Gifted and Talented pupils are met, eg through special projects
- ensure that if children do not do their Home Learning regularly, that a discussion is held with parents/carers
- to mark and comment on the Home Learning, demonstrating that it is valued
- to monitor children's reading at home
- to ensure Home Learning is used as part of class learning, as appropriate
- to ensure that parent/carers know when there is no Home Learning set

Parent/carer's role:

- to support their child with their Home Learning, ensuring that they look at it together
- **to read with their child every night, do age-appropriate number work and learn spellings or phonics. (See Home Learning Format below)**
- to know what the Home Learning expectations for their child's year group are
- to provide a suitable environment for the completion of Home Learning
- to communicate with the class teacher if there are any uncertainties or difficulties
- to comment on the child's Home Learning, in the space provided
- to fulfil the above expectations, as mentioned in the Home/School Contract

### *School Self Evaluation:*

The Key Stage Leaders will evaluate the completion and use of Home Learning on a half-termly basis and will ensure that the policy is used and effective, so that children are supported in their learning and enjoy Home Learning.

Parents/carers and children will be consulted regularly, through the Annual Parent and Pupil Survey, as well as when the policy is due for renewal. This may be in the form of informal consultation from a representative sample, a written consultation at a Parents' event or a letter home to families.

The efficacy of the Home Learning policy will be reported to the Governing Body through the Curriculum Committee.

### *Guidance for Parents/Carers:*

A booklet to help parents/carers know what to do to help their children is given to every family when they arrive at the school, and is given at the beginning of each new school year.

October 2006

Home Learning Format:- See Homework Guidance on the Website

Nursery:                    Read with every night, for five minutes or more  
Phonics for five minutes  
Number for five minutes

Reception:                Read every night, for five minutes or more  
Phonics for five minutes  
Numbers for five minutes

Year One:                 Read every night, for five minutes or more  
Phonics for five minutes  
Numbers for five minutes

Year Two:                 Read every night, for between 5 and 10 minutes.  
Phonics for five minutes  
Numbers for five minutes  
(2x 5x 10x multiplication tables)

Year Three:               Read every night, for ten minutes or more  
Spellings for 5 minutes  
Numbers for 5 minutes  
(3x 4x 6x multiplication tables)

Year Four:                Read every night, for ten minutes or more  
Spellings for 5 minutes  
Numbers for 5 minutes  
(7x 8x 9x tables)

Some literacy/numeracy homework for their group.

BY THE END OF Y4, CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW ALL THEIR MULTIPLICATION TABLES, WITH INSTANT RECALL AND NO COUNTING!

Year Five: Read every night, for ten minutes or more  
Spellings for 5 minutes  
Numbers for 5 minutes  
(Instant recall of all tables, in any order and recall of division tables, which are the opposite of multiplication tables eg  $6 \times 5 = 30$ , so  $30$  divided by  $5 = 6$  and  $30$  divided by  $6 = 5$ )  
Literacy homework. Maths homework.

Year Six: Read every night, for ten minutes or more  
Spellings for 5 minutes  
Numbers for 5 minutes  
(Instant recall of division tables as above)  
Literacy homework. Maths homework.

Handwriting:

It is the policy of Lady Katherine Leveson C of E Primary School that children use a pencil for writing (as well as other implements when appropriate) in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two. In Year Three, children who follow the presentation policy and make great effort with their handwriting are awarded the Pen Licence Award, which entitles them to use a Berol Handwriting Pen, available to buy from any stationers or from the school office, for 50p. IN Year Five and Year Six, children who demonstrate use of the presentation policy and great effort with handwriting are awarded the Lady K Fountain Pen Licence Award, also available to buy at the school office, for £1.50. Children must show their Licence in order to purchase a pen of either kind.

Please note: We do not allow children to write in Biro, as these pens do not help their pen control, handwriting or presentation.