

The background features a large, light grey watermark of the St. Lawrence College crest. The crest is a shield-shaped emblem with a diagonal banner across it. The banner contains the Latin motto 'SICUT ERAT' in capital letters. The shield is supported by two figures, likely saints or angels, and is topped with a crown. The text 'EST. 1860' is visible at the bottom of the crest.

St. Lawrence College Junior School Home Learning Policy

Our school is one community, united in our respect for each other, tolerant of differences and proud of our diversity, honest and positive about our learning and behaviour every day.

Issued: 2018

Most recent review: 2023

HOME LEARNING IN RECEPTION AND KEY STAGE 1

The Rationale

For 5–7-year-olds in KS1, home learning is an opportunity for children and parents to share the learning experience together, thus the emphasis is on simple, shared tasks. Appropriate home learning tasks complement and reinforce classroom learning, foster good study habits and contribute to creating a strong link between home and school.

The Aims

Through the assignment of relevant home learning activities, we aim to:

- encourage a parent/child or carer/child partnership in learning
- promote the dialogue between parents/school, school/pupils, and pupils/parents
- revisit objectives taught in school
- enhance and support learning
- foster good learning habits
- cultivate an interest in, and enjoyment of learning

WHAT HOME LEARNING INVOLVES

Homework for Reception children is simple, involving:

- short daily reading from set books in our reading scheme
- regular practice of flashcards
- literacy worksheets to practise the week's objectives
- numeracy worksheets to reinforce concepts taught that week

Homework in Years 1 & 2 remains concise and consists of the following:

- daily reading and discussion of books from our reading scheme
- regular practice of high-frequency words
- spelling words and lists in Y2
- short daily numeracy tasks on DoodleMaths
- topic work relating to other curricular areas

THE ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER

Class teachers assign home learning tasks and largely influence the children's attitude towards it. In that context, they will aim to:

- make home learning purposeful and suitable
- reward and praise children
- mark home learning and give feedback
- offer an easy-to-follow routine
- take equal opportunities into account when they assign the tasks

THE ROLE OF THE PUPIL

Pupils are encouraged to actively show some responsibility for their home learning. It is hoped that children will learn to:

- discuss home learning with parents/carers
- participate in active discussion about their reading books
- complete their home learning tasks on time
- seek assistance if difficulties arise

ROLE OF PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

In Reception & KS1 parents and carers are regularly encouraged to be actively involved in their children's home learning so that it is a pleasurable, shared activity. They should:

- praise their child for their efforts
- help their child develop a positive approach to homework through discussion
- ensure there is a balance between home learning tasks and recreational activities
- communicate with teachers if they have concerns
- provide a study area without disturbances and distractions

HOW LONG SHOULD BE SPENT ON HOME LEARNING?

In KS1, time spent on homework is limited to ensure that it is purposeful, meaningful and productive

In Reception, children should spend approximately 15 minutes on home learning daily

In Years 1 and 2, they may spend approximately 25 minutes daily

HOME LEARNING IN KEY STAGE 2

The Rationale

In Key Stage 2, we view homework as an opportunity for the development of self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and responsibility for learning. The quality of homework is more important than quantity thus tasks are carefully selected. Additionally, appropriate tasks complement and reinforce classroom learning, foster good life-long learning and study habits; and strengthen the link between home and school.

The Aims

Through the assignment of relevant home learning activities, we aim to:

- encourage parent/carer's partnership in learning
- promote the dialogue between parents/school, school/pupils, and pupils/parents
- revisit objectives taught in school
- enhance and support learning
- foster good learning habits
- cultivate an interesting and enjoyable attitude towards learning

WHAT HOME LEARNING INVOLVES

Home learning for KS2 children may involve:

- completing a home project / topic work / science fair entry
- library books and/or assigned class reading texts
- a short maths exercise or worksheet to practise specific skills
- tasks on spelling lists such as definitions or sentences
- other concise English language exercises, including writing, comprehension or grammar
- a science workbook page
- activities set on online platforms which support class learning (Doodle & Spelling Shed)
- Greek, French, Chinese or Spanish language tasks
- studying for a test

THE ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER

Class teachers are the ones to assign homework tasks and those who will largely influence the children's attitude towards it. In that context, they will aim to:

- make home learning purposeful and suitable
- reward and praise children
- mark home learning and give feedback
- provide an explanation for parents, in case they need to offer support
- offer an easy-to-follow routine
- take equal opportunities into account when they assign the tasks

THE ROLE OF THE PUPIL

Pupils are encouraged to actively show initiative and responsibility regarding to their home learning activities. In that sense, they are expected to:

- discuss home learning with parents/caregivers
- complete their home learning tasks within set time frames
- follow up on comments made by teachers in previous tasks
- seek assistance if difficulties arise
- organise their time to allow for home learning

ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS

In KS2 parents and caregivers are regularly encouraged to be actively but discreetly involved in their children's home learning and therefore their role is to:

- praise their child for their efforts
- help their child develop an approach with talk and positive discussions
- ensure there is a balance between home learning tasks and recreational activities
- communicate with teachers about related concerns
- check the homework diary /Microsoft Teams each day
- discuss school learning with their child
- provide a study area without disturbances or distractions
- use methods suggested by the teacher to assist
- check the child's efforts to learn and practise basic skills such as times tables
- encourage reading for pleasure daily
- ensure that computer games/ screen time is strictly limited during the week as it can become too distracting for children

HOW LONG SHOULD BE SPENT ON HOME LEARNING?

Through KS2, time spent on home learning tasks will gradually increase.

In Years 3 and 4: up to around 35 minutes daily

In Years 5 and 6: up to around 45 minutes daily

These times do not include time spent reading for pleasure which the children are expected and encouraged to do regularly.

Language teachers may also assign home learning tasks once a week. Please note that these time estimations are only guidelines.