



Kilburn
Grange School
LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Home Learning Policy

2017 - 2018

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1.0 Bellevue Place Education Trust – Our commitment

Learn. Enjoy. Succeed.

Three words that mean the world to us.

Three words that have been with us from the day we started Bellevue Place Education Trust.

Three words that govern all that we do.

As a parent you can expect excellence, both in how we teach and nurture your child. We foster a positive attitude to life, encouraging a ‘be interested and be interesting’ attitude by providing a rich learning environment full of arts, drama, sport, music and academic rigour.

Bellevue Place children are happy, confident, successful 'all rounders' who expect to win and achieve in an inclusive setting where children, parents and school staff work together to provide the best. Our commitment to you and your child is that we will teach them to learn, enjoy and succeed both in their school career and beyond.

2.0 Introduction

At Kilburn Grange School we value greatly the links between home and school and recognise the need to work together to ensure a good education for children. Our approach to home learning is flexible, allowing parents/carers to decide on what is best and manageable for their child and family. Evidence suggests that homework has a very limited impact on achievement for primary age children. This is why we feel a home learning approach involving children and families as opposed to homework is best. We encourage all children and families to partake in reading and learning at home. Learning doesn't stop at school and parents/carers are after all the child's first and foremost teacher.

This policy follows the guidance set out in the Equality Act 2010.

3.0 Aims

Our home learning approach aims:

- To develop effective partnerships with parents/carers and school to pursue the school's aims;
- To extend learning beyond the classroom and to foster a love of reading and learning;
- To provide opportunities for families and pupils to enjoy learning experiences together;
- To develop school values and independent learning skills including research skills;

4.0 Compulsory Home Learning

There are some elements of home learning that is compulsory and we expect all children and families to complete each week. The parents/carers responsibility is to support their child as detailed in the home school agreement.

- Reading – Children should be supported to read for pleasure every day. This will involve an adult reading to the child and the child reading to an adult (when your child is able to read independently). Children change their story book and decodeable reader (once your child is reading independently) once per week. Families are expected to comment and/or sign their child's home learning record to acknowledge that reading has taken place. This can be related to reading the books your child has borrowed from

school or one of their own or one borrowed from a library. Reception children should spend about 15 minutes reading daily and Year 1 and 2 children should spend about 20 minutes reading daily. The leaflet 'Helping Your Child at Home: Reading Tips for Beginner Readers' has useful tips to support your child's reading at home. You can find this leaflet on our website or ask the school office for a copy. The home learning record also has weekly spellings for pupils to practise and learn.

- Writing and mathematics challenges – The home learning record will have a writing and mathematics challenge for your child to complete. These challenges will help your child practise what they have been learning in school. It is important that you support your child with completing their home learning, but we do not expect family members to complete the tasks for their child as it's important that we see the child's capabilities.
- Talking – Chatter matters! Language is a vital skill necessary for your child to reach his or her full potential. If children cannot express themselves appropriately or understand language, it will affect not only their ability to read, write, but also to achieve in others subjects and areas of learning. The home learning record will have a talking challenge for your child to complete. The leaflet 'Supporting Your Child's Language Development' has useful advice on ways to support the development of language at home. You can find this leaflet on our website or ask the school office for a copy.

5.0 Home Learning Experiences

Although the home learning experiences are not compulsory, they are beneficial to further enriching your child's learning. The home learning experiences lend themselves to supporting children to practise talking, reading and writing. Each half-term, the class teacher produces an information curriculum leaflet outlining what children will be learning at school and how parents/carers can support their children at home. This information leaflet suggests a range of home learning experiences that families are encouraged to complete with their children. We hope that these home learning experiences will be very much a collaboration between the whole family with children encouraged to complete the task as much as possible independently and adults or older siblings offering ideas and suggestions. These projects are encouraged to be brought into school or photos emailed to the school office so that they can be shared with the class or school. These home learning experiences can be completed during the school term or school holidays. Occasionally, we might encourage families to complete home learning that is linked to the beginning of our new topic, the super starter. For example, during the Year 1 topic 'Holidays', children are asked to write and send a post card to the school during the summer holiday.

We also expect that these experiences are included as part of children's home learning:

- Exercise – As part of our healthy school action plan and recommendations from the Department of Health's Childhood Obesity Plan, children should be encouraged to be active daily. The UK Chief Medical Officers recommend that all children and young people should engage in moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity for at least 60 minutes a day. Children experience at least 30 minutes of physical activity at school daily and have two 1 hour physical education lessons each week. We encourage families to engage in at least 30 minutes of physical activity at home at least 3 times a week. This may include dancing, going to the park, playing in the garden and/or extra-

curricular activities such as swimming or karate. At Kilburn Grange School, we offer a variety of physical activity at after school clubs throughout the week.

- Play - Children's play is a serious business; it is an essential part of all children's development and learning. Free imaginative play is essential for social and emotional development and health. Structured activities in school and at home - while of value - need to be balanced with time for free imaginative play. Playing football and computer games are play of a kind, but they rely on rules and structures. Free play is unique - it develops the imagination and enables children to think creatively. Children of all ages and abilities can engage in fantasies that enable them to manage anxiety, solve problems and rehearse overcoming difficulties. There is evidence that children who engage in imaginative free play are more likely to succeed throughout school and in later life. It is important that your child has time to engage in free imaginative play at home regularly.

6.0 School Values

At Kilburn Grange School we have one school rule W.E. C.A.R.E. (wonder, endeavour, collaborate, aspire, reflect and enjoy). The values underpin all that we do and our behaviour system is based upon pupils demonstrating the school values in their learning and behaviour. The school values help to develop a pupil's character and learning habits and enable them to grow into well-rounded individuals and successful learners. They are deeply embedded within all areas of school life, including our curriculum and behaviour for learning. We encourage that parents/carers support pupils in the development of these school values at home. The leaflet 'Supporting Your Child's Character and Learning Habits' has useful advice on ways to support the development of these values at home. You can find this leaflet on our website or ask the school office for a copy.

7.0 Feedback and Marking

Each child will be given a home learning record book for the academic year. This should be returned to school every Wednesday. Teachers will write comments and inform parents/carers of their child's next steps fortnightly in their home learning record. The home learning record book also has tips and useful resources for parents/carers and children to use at home. The home learning record may be used to record any home learning experiences.

Parents/carers are encouraged to make comments to teachers in the home learning record. Parents/carers comments should relate to reading, next steps or any other learning. Parents/carers are also encouraged to write and share any learning and achievements that their child has accomplished and they are proud of. This may include achievements related to school learning or home events such as the celebration of a festival, a family holiday or learning to swim. These achievements may be shared and celebrated at school.

Children are expected to present home learning experiences that they completed to their class. Your child's classmates may ask your child questions about their home learning experience and provide verbal feedback, as part of our feedback and marking code. Your child's home learning will be added to the class display (if possible) and awarded a Class Dojo home learning award (2 points) on their Class Dojo profile. In line with our behaviour for learning policy, children may also be asked to share their learning with other staff, classes or during celebration assemblies.

In exceptional circumstances, the class teacher may nominate your child to share their learning with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher may decide to award your pupil a Headteacher award (worth 3 points) on Class Dojo for their accomplishment and you child will sign the celebration book. If your child achieves this award, you will be sent a text message to notify you of this exciting learning accomplishment.

All home learning is acknowledged by the class teacher weekly and verbal feedback given to children. If relevant, the class teacher may also write comments related to the home learning experiences. Your child may also be awarded a Class Dojo home learning award (2 points) on their Class Dojo profile for completing their home learning. It is expected that children will see that additional learning at home can lead to success in school. This level of success will motivate the child to achieve more home learning experiences.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is a digital behaviour system which can be operated online or via an app. Each child collects points individually (positive or needs work) which are collected throughout the day. Teachers and children can also share learning and celebrate child/class achievements on Class Dojo. Parents are encouraged to sign up to have access to Class Dojo to see their own child's learning profile and achievements. Parents will be asked to sign a code of conduct if they wish to have access and they will then be asked to register.

8.0 Children with Special Educational Needs

This home learning policy is for the benefit of all children and families in our school learning community, including children with special educational needs. However, at times, children with special educational needs may receive differentiated tasks according to their needs, which may be from a different context to the rest of the class.

9.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher will review this policy statement every year and update it in consultation with key staff and the parent's forum in line with current best practice as s/he considers necessary.

10.0 Approval by the Bellevue Place Education Trust Board

This policy has been formally approved and adopted by the BPET Board and will be reviewed every year.