



Beaufort Primary School

## Family Learning (Homework) Policy



### Introduction

At Beaufort Primary school, we believe that support from home is an important aspect of a child's education. Primary school homework is an opportunity for a shared family learning experience, which can inspire further learning and interest. Our homework is divided into compulsory and optional tasks to allow for flexibility to suit each family's circumstances. Compulsory homework consists of the activities which we consider will have the maximum impact on children's learning; that is reading, spelling and mental Maths. All other homework will be optional until children reach Year 6, when we will start to prepare them for secondary school with a greater volume and variety of homework tasks.

### Aims

Homework should:

- provide children with an opportunity to share their learning with their parents and/or other family members;
- motivate children to extend their learning and interests beyond the school day;
- promote independence and a love of learning;
- allow parents, carers and the school to work in partnership for the benefit of their child;
- be an enjoyable, inspirational and stress free experience for all concerned;
- focus, if compulsory, on the basic skills of reading, spelling and mental Mathematics.

### Non-completion of Compulsory Homework

We hope that parents will recognise the importance of homework tasks and will support their child by finding time in their daily routine to complete the activities. When parents are unable or unwilling to support their child with daily homework at home, we will endeavour to provide time within the school day for those children, so that they are not put at a disadvantage. Due to timetable constrictions, this is likely to be during their break or lunchtime, when those children will be supervised in practising the necessary skills.

### Marking and Assessment

Reading diaries will be checked regularly and comments noted. Spellings will be tested weekly. All compulsory homework will be based on our assessment of each child's individual needs.

### Optional Homework

Each term/half-term, the class teacher will send home a 'Family Learning' sheet, which will outline optional homework tasks which are connected to the work being covered. This will provide ideas for a variety of cross-curricular, practical homework activities, such as suggestions for places to visit, Art/D.T. projects and ideas for extending Mathematics and Literacy learning. These activities can be undertaken at a time to suit the family and children can choose from the list whenever they wish to engage in a homework activity.

Again, the focus here is on family learning time and our aim is to provide ideas for quality educational experiences that can be enjoyed by all. For our younger children, the experiences are likely to be 'play based' and will provide a wealth of opportunities for parents and carers to help the

child to develop essential language skills. Optional homework completed should be brought back into class, where it will be shared and celebrated, thus inspiring other children to participate in the activities suggested.

We believe that meaningful homework extends the learning from lessons and inspires children to find out more. From time to time, teachers may make suggestions for how children can follow up their learning at home. For example, Reception children learning the sound 't' may be asked to look for things at home that start with that sound; Key Stage One children learning about weights and measures may be asked to look at the tins and packets in their cupboards to find out which units have been used to measure them; Key Stage 2 children learning about percentages may be asked to look in newspapers for examples of how percentages are used. All this helps to set the learning into a meaningful context for the child and encourages children to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

### ICT Support

Children in the school have access to a range of web based programmes to enhance, extend and continue their learning beyond the school day. These include Purple Mash and Mathletics, which provide learning tailored to the child's current age and stage of development.

### Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current age and stage of development. In addition, we aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, home language or home background. The flexibility of our homework programme takes account of individual needs and of children's other interests and commitments outside of school, as well as our belief that children should spend their childhood engaged in imaginative play activity. In addition, it recognises the differing abilities of our parents and carers.

Policy reviewed by the Local Governing Committee in Autumn 2023

Date for next review: Autumn 2026