Orchard Lea Federation

Home Learning Policy

Policy start date: September 2023

Policy renewal date: September 2026

At the Orchard Lea Federation we believe that education is a partnership between pupils, parents and school and this relationship is vital to ensure all children are being the best learners they can be. There are many benefits to ensuring that your child's development is supported at home including; organisation, self-motivation, self- confidence and independence. The home learning tasks we suggest and set aim to support, encourage and embed these core skills that will support them throughout their academic journey. We recognise that time spent at home is valued family time and we understand the importance of having time together to take part in shared experiences that extend beyond academic achievements. With this in mind, this policy is intended to promote manageable home learning opportunities that complement the experiences you take part in together as a family.

This policy aims to:

- Ensure clarity and consistency of our approaches and expectations across the Federation.
- Improve and extend the quality of learning experiences offered to all of our children.
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and staff to work together in partnership.
- Encourage progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, particularly with reading, writing and mathematics.
- Consider the needs of the individuals in our school.
- Ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding of the expectations of pupils.
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work collaboratively to enjoy learning.

The purpose of home learning at the Orchard Lea Federation is:

- To consolidate, practise and reinforce what has already been taught in class.
- To promote a curiosity for learning beyond the classroom.
- To encourage parental involvement and support parents in understanding the aims of our school.
- To give parents an insight into what their child/children has been learning.
- Give children the opportunity to use out of school resources (e.g. books and computing sources).
- Develop good learning habits and the confidence and self-discipline that children need to study independently.
- Prepare children adequately for life beyond Orchard Lea Federation.

Home Learning at the Orchard Lea Federation:

Reading:

We expect all children to read as often as possible at home. We also promote the sharing of stories and giving children the opportunity to hear others read to them, this is just as important for an older child too!

	Books sent home	Expectations
Infant	1. Read write inc book 2. Sticker book 3. Library book	• Children read 4 times a week • Reading log book is signed by parents. 4 reads per week = raffle ticket Raffle tickets enter a half termly draw, chance of winning a book.
Junior	1. Reading book 2. Library book	

English and Mathematics Homework

To ensure consistency and continuity, all home learning across the Orchard Lea Federation will be sent home on a **Friday** and due back on a **Thursday**.

It is expected that all pupils will attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their abilities. The home learning set weekly will be **in addition to the regular reading we expect from all children.**

Expectations are listed below:

Orchard Lea Infant: EYFS/KS1

Year R		
Subject	**What?**	**How often**
Reading	Reading books Flashcards linked to phonic sounds. Sound mats	Four times weekly
English	Ladybird or caterpillar toy sent home to promote writing.	Twice weekly
Maths	Numicon packs and number cards	Half termly
All other areas of EYFS	Upload home experiences onto Tapestry.	
Other	Topic activities on the weekly OLI newsletter	

There is no expectation for Year R to return work, please continue using Tapestry as usual.

Year 1 *Weekly homework should take approximately 20-30 mins to complete*		
Subject	**What?**	**How often?**
Reading	Reading book - Read aloud to an adult and record it in the reading record/diary. Common exception words Set 1,2 and 3 sounds as needed	Four times weekly
English	Writing a diary/postcards and captions	Half termly
Maths	Problems/counting challenge & number bonds	Half termly

Other	Topic activities on the OLI newsletter	Weekly

Year 2 *Weekly homework should take approximately 20-30 mins to complete*		
Subject	**What?**	**How often?**
Reading	Reading book - Read aloud to an adult and record it in the reading record/diary.	Four times weekly
English	Spelling activity	Weekly
Maths	Timetables/number bonds	Half termly
Other	Occasional topic activities on the weekly OLI newsletter	

Orchard Lea Junior – KS2

Year 3 and 4 *Weekly homework will take approximately 30 minutes*		
Subject	**What?**	**How often?**
Reading	Read aloud to an adult and record it in the reading record/diary.	Four times weekly
English	Spelling related activity	Every other week
Maths	Multiplication related activity	Every other week

Year 5 *Weekly homework will take approximately 30 minutes*		
Subject	**What?**	**How often?**
Reading	Read aloud to an adult and record it in the reading record/diary.	Four times weekly
English	English related activity 10 spelling to practice	Every other week Every week
Maths	Maths related activity Multiplication or arithmetic activity	Every other week Every week

Year 6 *We expect children to spend approx. 30 minutes – 1 hour on their homework each week.*		
Subject	**What?**	**How often?**
Reading	Read aloud to an adult and record it in the reading record/diary.	Four times weekly
English	English related activity 10 spelling to practice	Every other week Every week
Maths	Maths related activity Multiplication or arithmetic activity	Every other week Every week
SATs	Revision	Weekly, once the year group begin to revise for SAT's.

Feedback:

We believe that feedback is for the child and therefore feedback to home learning will be given in a range of ways. Work will always be acknowledged by staff either with a tick, stamp, "like" or a brief "comment". Staff may also feedback to pupils orally in class as this can be more valuable to the pupil than a written comment (especially with younger pupils).

Safeguarding pupils using the online platform

As always, safeguarding our pupils is at the heart of what we do at Orchard Lea. We will be including Google in our computing curriculum to support staff in teaching children how to use our online platforms safely. Internet safety is a fundamental part of our curriculum and we will continue to teach children about using the internet safely and ensuring they are risk aware when using the online platforms.

Online Juniors

The online platforms used for home learning at Orchard Lea Junior e.g. Google Classroom, timestables rockstars, are approved sites that are designed for use by primary aged pupils. We continue to teach children about how to report sites that concern them and children are taught explicitly about how to seek help if they have any worries about things they have seen online.

In line with our policies we strongly recommend that parents are aware of, and monitor, the sites their children are using online. This extends to our sites used for home learning, in order to safeguard our pupils when working online.

What to do if you are not happy with the home learning provision:

In the first instance, we request that parents contact their child's class teacher to discuss any concerns regarding weekly home learning provision. Following this, please contact the Head of School who will be able to address your concerns. Please contact the office who will redirect your query or concern.

If you are still not happy, you can find a copy of our complaints procedure on our website, where a member of SLT will be able to address your concerns.

FAQ's

In order to support parents we have put together the below FAQs

My child is on the SEND register, how will they be supported?

We recognise all of our children are different and access learning in different ways. We will ensure that the work we set your child is accessible for your child, and where appropriate, may provide differentiated tasks to meet their needs.

My child finds the tasks too easy, will the school provide more?

Our home learning tasks will link to key skills that have already been taught within the classroom. Therefore your child may already show some understanding of the task, but we would encourage you, and them, to continue practising the skill in a range of contexts. Teachers will advise where there is an extension to the home learning task. In some cases, differentiated tasks may be appropriate – your child's class teacher will advise if this is the case.

How will the school support parents if their child does not have access to a device?

At times, homework will be set that will require use of a device. We recognise that not every child has access to their own device and we understand the challenges of shared devices and varied internet connections. Homework will be set on a Friday, with a deadline of the following Thursday to complete. We hope that within this time, children may be able to have some access to existing devices at home. If this is not possible, children can be offered access to our computing resources in school, to be able to complete their home learning tasks.

What if my child cannot complete the tasks in the time given above?

We have an open door policy and we encourage parents to communicate any concerns back with the class teacher. This can be done directly to the teacher or through the main school office. We recognise all children are different and will look for ways we can support your child if this is the case.

Will the work be marked if it is sent in late?

Work will be set on a Friday. It will be marked by the following Thursday afternoon. Work submitted after this time may not be marked.

How will the school help parents to know when then work is set and needs to be completed?

The above tables show when work will be set. All homework will be set on a Friday and should be submitted by the following Thursday. If this timescale changes for a particular task, it will be detailed on the task and/or communicated to parents.

How will the school support pupils who do not complete any home learning?

In the first instance, we will always seek to work with families where children are finding it hard to complete home learning. This may be due to lack of access to devices or that the child is finding it hard to access the tasks. The class teacher will work with the family to resolve this.

Our circumstances have changed and we are finding it hard to complete the tasks with our children. How can the school support our family?

Please stay in touch and keep the class teacher informed of any difficulties you are experiencing at home. We will endeavour to support your child and families during this time.

I am not happy with the tasks and would like to speak to someone. How can I do this?

In the first instance, please contact your child's class teacher to resolve any concerns regarding the tasks set. This can be done through the usual channels at the main office, or after school, with the class teacher.

Following this, if you feel the issue has not been resolved, you can contact the team leader or SLT through the main office. A copy of our further complaints policy is on our website.

Will the school expect pupils to complete tasks over the school holidays?

No. We feel that children will benefit from time spent outside and with their friends and families during the school holidays. We know that learning can take many forms and children will continue to learn and develop through the activities they take part in during the holidays. Please continue reading with your child and if your child would like to complete any tasks, we suggest referring back to previous tasks and further embedding these key skills.

Will tasks be set during the first and last weeks of term?

Work will not be set during the first and last week of term. We will support the children in the first week of term as they settle back into routines and we often find that children become increasingly tired as the term progresses. To support with mental wellbeing, there will be no academic tasks set during these weeks

Can school provide homework for my child when we are on holiday?

This will not be provided for any children as holidays are not authorised.