



## **Home or Extended Learning Policy**

### **Introduction:**

At John Chilton School we recognise that Home or Extended Learning can take many forms and can make an important contribution to a child's progress at school. Home/Extended Learning is an important way of involving parents, carers and families in school life and the learning journey of their child. We recognise that learning is most effective where there is cooperation and collaboration between home and school.

Home or Extended learning is part of the whole curriculum and can include participating in leisure activities; developing or maintaining gross and fine motor skills; practising life skills; reinforcing positive behaviour. The purpose of the learning activities suggested should be clear and appropriate for the pupil and the family.

### **Aims:**

Home/extended learning should offer the opportunity to:

- Reinforce and generalise skills;
- Extend interest in a topic;
- Develop research and enquiry skills;
- Develop life and leisure skills;
- Develop and extend an interest in the world and community around them;
- Support social interaction and communication;
- Increase progression towards independent work and research;
- Support positive behaviour programmes;
- Maintain/improve fine and gross motor skills;
- Develop self-help and independence in personal care skills;
- Motivate pupils to achieve.

### **Suggested Home/Extended Learning activities:**

- Family visits, for example, to parks, natural environments, historical sites, theatres, museums all help develop learning and an interest in the world around them.
- Travelling to and using local community facilities, using different transport or walking/using a wheelchair and noticing landmarks and routes to develop skills of orientation, route planning and independent travel.
- Practical activities around the house and community such as cooking and shopping play an important role in practising pupils' knowledge and skills in a useful way; these are the ideal opportunities to contribute to learning.
- Playing games as a family can support English and maths development. Your child's teacher will be happy to help with ideas and advice and we offer a range of workshops throughout the year to support parents with this.
- Reading through books, comics, signs and sharing a story is an important activity and we encourage parents to read daily with their child.
- Watching appropriate news programmes and documentaries to develop an interest in the world and knowledge of current affairs.
- Clubs and leisure activities that promote physical and social skills and increase confidence, fitness and wellbeing.

**Subject learning activities from school:**

Where appropriate a teacher may ask pupils to complete some learning activities at home to support the topic being taught in school. The main focus is usually on English, maths and accredited work for a course.

- Regular reading is vital. Looking at and enjoying books together, listening to each other read is essential throughout the school. Reading should be purposeful e.g. reading a school reading book, a topic book from the school or local library to research a school project or for younger children listening to stories and reading signs and notices in shops and on their way to school.
- Other literacy tasks will include learning spelling, basic grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy tasks will include games and investigations as well as more formal tasks: these should enable the child and the parent/carer to interact and have fun together with numbers.
- Tasks and activities related to accredited courses within the secondary department may be given for completion at home, such as cost of shopping, spending pocket money. This work should be returned to the subject teacher.
- If a pupil integrates into the Alec Reed Academy (ARA) they will be set home learning by the teacher of that subject. This should be returned to the teacher from ARA. If you feel your child is having difficulties with this learning, please speak with the JCS Form Tutor who will liaise with ARA as necessary.

The time your child spends on learning tasks is less important than his or her understanding of it. If you feel your child is struggling to complete activities in a reasonable time (between half an hour and an hour depending on their age and ability) please speak to the teacher. It is important that you help your child but do not do the work for them.

**Parents are encouraged to discuss any issues related to Home or Extended Learning at the Annual Review, Parents' Evening, Progress Day or by contacting the Class Teacher or John Chilton School Year Tutor.**

This policy was agreed at Governors' Pupil's, Teaching & Learning Committee May 2018