



Castle Hill School

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Policy Created	2006
Signed off Last review	2018
Review frequency	3 years
Date to be reviewed	2021

General Policy Statement

At Castle Hill School we intend to provide a safe, secure, caring environment where every one is valued and respected equally. We aim to provide an inclusive education where children develop independent learning skills and are taught according to need whatever their age, gender, background, beliefs or abilities.

National legislation re disabilities, race relations and special education needs underpin this policy, which has also taken into consideration national, local and school policies on Special Educational Needs, Gifted and Talented, Equal Opportunities and Health and Safety.

Philosophy and Purpose

Home learning consists of all those activities pupils are asked to do at home. It should extend school learning of all kinds at home and encourage pupils to develop confidence and where appropriate self discipline needed to study on their own. It should develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school. Home learning should also exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.

Home Learning is often offered to students who have ill health and may be confined to home or hospital. We work closely with families to ensure additional stress is not triggered by the home learning agenda.

Home learning should:

- have a very clear focus and time-guidance
- give plenty of opportunity for pupils to succeed
- be varied
- build on and enhance the school curriculum
- encourage pupils to develop positive attitudes to their learning
- provide an opportunity for pupils to develop the skills if appropriate of independent learning e.g. answering the telephone, making a drink, cleaning teeth etc
- help develop social as well as other skills where necessary e.g. eating a meal in a new setting, catching a bus, (delete etc) independent travel
- be manageable for parents/carers

The partnership with parents/carers:

- information should be provided for parents, carers and families about the value of home learning

- parents, carers and families need guidance on the role they should play
- the work set should involve parents and children working together
- school should not disadvantage children from different socio-economic groups
- home work should not interfere with children's religious practices

Practice

Improving standards of attainment in school:

- home learning should match the work currently being undertaken in school
- it should enhance and extend the teaching
- it should not be a substitute for work which ought to be done in school

The development of positive attitudes:

- home learning should be enjoyable, it should not be a chore
- it should help children develop good attitudes to work
- it should not interfere with other appropriate activities, therapies or hobbies which the children may participate in
- regular feedback should be given to the children about their home learning
- it should not put parents, carers, families or children under pressure
- there should be a consistent approach to home learning throughout the school

The role of the parent/carer and families

- they should provide a reasonable peaceful, suitable place in which the child can do their home learning
- make it clear to the child that they value home learning
- support school in explaining how it can help their learning
- encourage the child and praise them when they have completed their home learning
- give adequate feedback to the teacher as to how the child coped with the home learning
- suggest other types of home learning which you feel will benefit the child. See request for home learning form for parents below
- parents should keep staff well informed about family situation so that the school can work in keeping with their circumstances
- to be encouraged to ask the school for support with necessary resources in order to enhance the home learning

The role of the pupil

- to be encouraged to ask for home learning
- to be encouraged to take pride in their home learning
- to be encouraged to talk about their home learning
- to enjoy sharing the home learning with their parents and families

Home learning letter for parents and carers and families

Dear Parent, Carer and families

Name of child _____

As a parent, carer and family you play a vital role in your child's education. When circumstances such as ill health prevent your child from attending school we wish to support you by offering the opportunity to extend school learning of all kinds at home.

Some ideas of resources or activities are listed below. Alternatively please let us know what you feel would be most appropriate approaches to meet your son or daughter's learning needs.

Sally Metcalfe our Family Liaison Officer would be happy to ensure that you receive resources at your home or hospital if appropriate.

Toys Adapted for Switched on Kids (TASK) Library toys

Sensory toys/activities

Books

Picture Exchange Symbols (PECS)

Training opportunities can also be made available to ensure parents and carers can deliver specialist learning approaches such as Intensive Interaction at home

Please complete the section below and return this form to school

I would like to support my child at home with _____

I would like to discuss the possibility of training in specialist learning approaches in the following area

Signed

Parent or Carer _____