



## Home Learning Policy - Learning beyond the classroom

*'The world is the true classroom' - Jack Hanna*

### **Intent**

At Long Lane Primary School, we believe that learning is most powerful when it extends beyond the classroom and into everyday life. Home learning is an opportunity to strengthen understanding, build confidence, and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Our approach recognises that **children learn everywhere** - through experiences at home, in their community, and through social interactions. We aim to make every experience a learning experience, whether it develops social awareness, knowledge, new skills, or essential life skills.

### **Our Philosophy**

We are committed to:

- Promoting **experiential learning** through real-life opportunities
- Encouraging children to see the world as a place full of learning
- Making learning **fun, engaging, and meaningful wherever you are**
- Supporting children in becoming independent and curious learners

We believe that learning should not feel like a chore, but rather a natural and enjoyable part of everyday life.

### **Partnership Between Home and School**

A strong **partnership between parents, carers, and teachers** is at the heart of successful learning. When families and school work together, children benefit from consistent support, encouragement, and shared expectations.

This partnership enables:

- Reinforcement of key skills taught in school
- Deeper understanding through discussion and shared experiences
- Early identification of areas where support may be needed
- Enhanced motivation and confidence in learners
- Teachers will communicate regularly and provide guidance, while parents and carers support, encourage, and celebrate learning at home. Together, this collaboration creates the best possible environment for children to thrive.

## **Pre-Learning and Overlearning**

### **Pre-learning**

Pre-learning involves introducing children to concepts before they are formally taught in school. This might include:

- Talking about a new topic
- Exploring key vocabulary
- Researching or discussing upcoming learning

### **Benefits of pre-learning:**

- Builds confidence and familiarity
- Reduces anxiety about new concepts
- Helps children engage more actively in lessons

### **Overlearning**

Overlearning is the process of continuing to practice a skill after it has been initially understood, so that it becomes secure and automatic.

### **Benefits of overlearning:**

- Improves fluency and recall (e.g. reading, number facts)
- Strengthens long-term memory
- Allows children to apply skills more effectively in new situations

Both pre-learning and overlearning are key elements of our home learning approach and support children in mastering their learning.

## **Experiential Learning at Home**

We strongly encourage families to embrace **learning through everyday experiences**, such as:

- Cooking (measuring, following instructions)
- Shopping (budgeting, problem-solving)
- Outdoor exploration (nature, seasons, observation)
- Social interactions (communication, empathy, teamwork)

These experiences help children understand that:

**Learning is not limited to books—it happens everywhere.**

## **Making Learning Fun**

We encourage a positive, flexible approach:

- Turn activities into games
- Follow children’s interests
- Encourage curiosity and questions
- Celebrate effort and progress

Learning should feel enjoyable and rewarding, not pressured.

## **Implementation**

### **Our Homework Package**

At Long Lane, our home learning offer is divided into **three key elements**:

#### ***1. Expectation (Core Learning)***

This is what we expect all children to engage with regularly to **cement learning from school** through frequent, short bursts of practice.

#### **Reading Practice and Fluency**

- Daily, if possible, but at least **4 times per week**
- Short, age-appropriate sessions
- Focus on enjoyment, understanding, and fluency

#### **Reading Advice for Parents**

- Encourage discussion about the text
- Ask questions and explore vocabulary

- Share a variety of reading materials
- Make reading a positive, relaxed experience

### **Spelling Practice**

- A few times per week
- Short sessions (around 10-15 minutes)

### **Number Facts Fluency**

- Regular practice of:
  - Number bonds
  - Times tables
  - Division facts

## ***2. Bespoke (Individual Support)***

The bespoke element is tailored to individual pupils and provided when needed.

This may include:

- Targeted practice in specific areas of the curriculum
- Support to “keep up” or “catch up”
- Additional guidance or resources from the teacher

This will be:

- Discussed during **1:1 meetings** or parent consultations
- Supported through individual packs or guided activities
- Communicated directly by the class teacher

**Parents are encouraged to speak with their child’s teacher if they feel additional support may be beneficial.**

### ***3. Optional (Enrichment Learning)***

We provide a range of optional opportunities to **enhance and extend learning**, allowing children to pursue interests, talents, and hobbies.

This includes:

- Educational apps available via the **Pupil Zone Page**
- Topic research linked to class learning
- Activities based on **topic overviews**

These opportunities support both **pre-learning and revisiting learning**, particularly within foundation subjects.

Examples include:

- **IXL** (for Maths and English - available to Years 2–6)
- **TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars)** - supporting times tables fluency
- Additional apps and resources (logins provided in planners)

These tools were selected in response to parent and pupil feedback and are designed to make learning interactive and enjoyable.

### **Inclusion and Flexibility**

We recognise that all families are different. Our approach is:

- Flexible and adaptable
- Respectful of family time and commitments
- Inclusive for all learners

Children are encouraged and supported, and we value all forms of learning - formal and informal.

We acknowledge that pupils with SEND, pastoral or other need may find homework difficult and will provide reasonable adjustments to support this. We rely on parent feedback to ensure that the approach is right for each child.

### **Stress Free learning at home**

The following recommendations are included as parental information: •

Provide your child with a quiet time and place to do homework.

- ✓ Switch off the TV
- ✓ Siblings need to respect that those engaged in homework should not be disturbed
- ✓ Show a genuine interest in your child's homework and become involved, but refrain from doing it for them
- ✓ Establish a homework routine and be aware of homework procedures
- ✓ Ensure that your child has the tools necessary to complete the homework e.g. pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, glue, scissors and paper
- ✓ Have an atlas and dictionary in the home
- ✓ Be willing to make the occasional visit to the school and/or public library with your child
- ✓ Keep in touch with your child's teacher, especially if difficulties are experienced

### **How Homework Supports Good Learning Habits Linked to the Secrets of Success**

At Long Lane Primary School, homework is carefully designed to support and develop the “**Secrets of Success**” - the key learning behaviours that help children become effective, confident, and independent learners. By building consistent routines and meaningful experiences at home, homework plays a vital role in embedding these lifelong habits.

#### **The Secrets of Success**

*At Long Lane we promote and explicitly teach good learning behaviours through the ‘Secrets of Success’ programme. The importance of engaging in homework can be linked to these areas of success to support children for their future resilience and success.*

#### **Try New Things**

Homework - particularly through experiential and optional activities - encourages children to explore new ideas, environments, and skills. Whether it is researching a topic, using a new app, or learning through real-life experiences, children are supported to step outside their comfort zone and embrace new challenges.

#### **Work Hard**

Regular practice through the **Expectation** element of homework (reading, spelling, and number fluency) helps children understand the importance of effort and consistency. Short, frequent practice sessions build discipline and show children that progress comes through sustained effort over time.

### **Concentrate**

Homework tasks, especially those completed in short, focused bursts, help children develop concentration and attention skills. Reading regularly, practicing spellings, or completing number work all require children to focus, which strengthens their ability to engage deeply with learning both at home and in school.

### **Push Yourself**

Through both optional and bespoke homework, children are encouraged to challenge themselves:

- Optional tasks allow them to go beyond the basics and explore interests more deeply
- Bespoke tasks provide targeted challenge or support where needed

This helps children understand that learning involves stretching themselves and aiming to improve.

### **Imagine**

Creative homework tasks and experiential learning opportunities allow children to use their imagination. Whether storytelling, role play, creative projects, or exploring the world around them, children develop creativity and the ability to think in different ways.

### **Improve**

Homework promotes reflection and growth. Through **overlearning**, children revisit and practice skills until they become secure, helping them to improve over time. Feedback from teachers and support from parents further reinforces the idea that learning is a continuous journey.

### **Understand Others**

Experiential learning at home - such as conversations, social interactions, and shared activities - helps children develop empathy, communication skills, and social understanding. These are essential life skills that support both personal development and learning.

### **Don't Give Up**

Homework helps children build resilience. When tasks feel challenging, children learn to persevere, try different approaches, and seek support when needed. This is especially supported through the partnership between home and school, ensuring children feel encouraged and supported.

### **Building Lifelong Learning Habits**

By engaging with homework regularly, children develop:

- **Independence** - taking responsibility for their learning
- **Routine** - establishing consistent study habits
- **Confidence** - feeling secure in their knowledge and abilities
- **Curiosity** - wanting to explore and learn more
- These habits underpin the **Secrets of Success** and prepare children not just for school, but for lifelong learning.

## **Conclusion**

At Long Lane Primary School, we believe that **every moment is an opportunity to learn something**. Through a strong partnership between home and school, a focus on experiential learning, and a balanced homework approach, we aim to develop confident, capable, and curious learners.

By making learning fun, meaningful, and part of everyday life, we empower children to see the world as their classroom. Homework at Long Lane is not just about completing tasks - it is about developing the attitudes, behaviours, and skills that lead to success. By embedding the Secrets of Success into home learning, we ensure that children grow into resilient, motivated, and enthusiastic learners who are ready to thrive in all areas of life.

## **Linked Docs**

Home school partnership