



Matthew 7:12 'Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you'

## Barton Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

### Home Learning Policy

At Barton Church of England (VA) School, we value good communication between home and school and we aim to foster the love of learning throughout a pupil's life, working in partnership with parents, carers and wider family members to support each child to fulfil their learning potential.

Research carried out by the EEF (Educational Endowment Foundation) into the value of Home Learning (that is, *learning tasks that are set by teachers to be completed outside of normal lesson time*, as opposed to Remote Learning, defined as, *learning where the learner and instructor, or source of information, are separated by time and distance and therefore cannot meet in a traditional classroom setting*) suggests that:

- Effective home learning can have a positive impact of up to 3 months in primary school
- Home learning tasks that are linked to classroom face-to-face teaching are the most effective
- Home learning tasks when the pupil is made explicitly aware of what the learning objectives for the task are and how it fits into their other learning are most beneficial.

To this end, our Home Learning Policy is based upon the following principles:

- Quality over quantity, expectations matched to the capabilities of each year group
- Well-designed tasks linked to classroom learning
- Clearly set out aims so that the children are explicitly aware of why they are completing the tasks
- Reduction in any barriers preventing completion or access

#### The purpose of Home Learning is to:

- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- create an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading, writing, discussion
- stimulate each child's curiosity and love of learning
- develop research and recording skills
- encourage pupils to develop the self-discipline of time management and responsibility as they progress through the school to study on their own
- encourage the development of speaking and listening skills in front of an audience
- prepare pupils for the requirements of secondary education

#### The Importance of Talk in the Home Environment

Research supports the importance of vocabulary development from an early age and the vital role parents and families play in a child's exposure to new language. We encourage parents to converse daily with their children about what they have learnt at school, what they have been doing and how they feel about their school experience, for example, by holding the following sorts of discussions:

"Tell me about the most interesting thing you have learnt today."

"What did you enjoy most about today's learning?"

"What did you do at playtime?"

"How are you getting along with your friends?"

Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School	Page 1 of 3
Reviewed by Standards – July 2025	Home Learning Policy



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*Parental engagement in their child's learning has a positive impact on average of 4+ months in total..... and is particularly effective in young children. (EEF Parent Engagement 2021)*

### **Out of School Learning Experiences**

Providing children with rich experiences outside of school helps their holistic development. We encourage parents to create opportunities to enhance their children's learning outside of school through a range of activities, for example, visiting museums, galleries, public spaces in Cambridge/London, involvement in sporting clubs, scouting or guiding, learning of musical instruments, travelling to interesting places like the seaside or other cities.

### **Types of Home Learning promoted in Barton School**

At Barton, we have separated Home Learning into two main aspects:

#### Weekly Skills Practice:

Daily reading or sharing of books for all pupils in KS1 and EYFS is based around a Little Wandle Reading Scheme book which is allocated by their class teacher, plus any number of other reading books of their choice to be read alone or with an adult. The method of recording home reading is class dependent. KS1 and EYFS children will require a parent signature to evidence regular home reading. AT the start of each half term, the phonics and spelling patterns are sent home with a few activity ideas by email.

Children in LKS2 and UKS2 will also be encouraged to choose books to take home from a wide range of genres and will be expected to read every day at home, either independently and/or with an adult.

Reluctant readers will be identified and individual reading records introduced according to need. They also have a summary of key exception words for their year group to refer to. A guide to the types of questions that could be asked to elicit fact retrieval and inference, for example, will be supplied to each child and put upon the website.

Questions asked can include:

- Can you summarise the story so far?*
- Who is your favourite character and why?*
- Why do you think that the author chose that word?*
- What do you think is going to happen next?*

#### Home Projects

The aim of the home projects is to give opportunities for pupils to explore their own interests and ideas connected with the class topic they are learning about. Regular opportunities will also be given for children to share particular hobbies or topics of particular interest to them. It is an opportunity to develop Speaking and Listening skills, whilst presenting to their peers. Teachers will provide a range of suggested activities connected with the class topic and give plenty of time for pupils to prepare these projects at home. Presentations will be to the whole class at least once a half term. A selection of choices and styles of presentations will be given, and creativity is encouraged. We communicate tasks and expectations regularly and enable all children to access work by providing paper and electronic copies simultaneously.

Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School	Page 2 of 3
Reviewed by Standards – July 2025	Home Learning Policy



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**Age Appropriate Home Learning**

EYFS Pupils

All home learning in Early Years will require the active involvement of a parent/carer. The main focus will be reading, initially, parent and child together. Each child will be allocated a level appropriate book linked to our Little Wandle phonics programme through which the letter sounds they have learned in class can be practised in context. They will also be encouraged to choose a reading-for-pleasure book to read and share with an adult. Other home learning will also include simple games, learning tricky words and number facts.

Key Stage 1 pupils

Similarly, the children in Key Stage 1 will also have a phonics-matched Little Wandle book and a reading-for-pleasure book to take home each week to share and read out loud with an adult at least 5 times a week for 15 minutes or more, discussing the text using prompt questions provided in the reading journal. Alongside this, there will be spelling lists sent home to learn after Christmas focused on Common Exception, Tricky and High Frequency Words that would not necessarily be included in phonics-linked spellings.

Key Stage 2 Pupils

In Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) pupils are expected to begin to organise their own time for Home Projects.

In Year 6, pupils are given practice SATs papers to complete, which can either be online or on paper and CPG books to support their revision. The answers will be discussed in class.

**Home Learning planning and Coordination**

Each class teacher will be responsible for organising the home learning and will provide guidance on parents'/carers' involvement and a suggested time limit for the tasks. There will be a regular weekly pattern to the home learning.

The home learning plan for each class will be on the website, under the individual class page. It will also be discussed at the "Class Essentials Evening" early in the Autumn Term.

Websites and links will be made available for Home Learning and these will be found on class pages on [www.bartonprimary.org.uk](http://www.bartonprimary.org.uk)

**Support with Home Learning**

If any pupil or family are having problems with the Home Learning tasks, then class teachers are always willing to explain the tasks again or help pupils individually in school time with anything. If the internet is needed for Home Learning tasks, then computers can be made available during the school day to help pupils. It is our aim to ensure all pupils have equality of both access and opportunity to extend their learning at home.

This policy will be reviewed in July 2026.

Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School	Page 3 of 3
Reviewed by Standards – July 2025	Home Learning Policy