



Inspiring All to Excellence



Violet Way Academy

Home Learning Policy

Document Control

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Rationale for Home Learning

At Violet Way Academy, we see home learning as an important example of cooperation between teachers, pupils and their parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that home learning opportunities can support children's acquisition of the skill of independent learning.

Home learning can play a positive role in children's learning, enabling them to consolidate and extend learning in the classroom. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Home learning is important and enables children to develop a range of important life-long learning skills such as: self-discipline, perseverance and independence. In addition, children should also be encouraged to take part in a range of activities, such as afterschool clubs or other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. When parents/carers encourage children to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school, we believe that they develop their interests and skills. Rest, relaxation, exercise and play are also important and valuable experiences in a child's life.

Aims

The aims and objectives of home learning are:

- to help pupils develop the skills of becoming an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to extend learning beyond the classroom and enable some aspects of the curriculum to be repeated, consolidated and explored in other contexts;
- to allow children to practice the knowledge, skills and understanding taught in lessons;
- to support children's academic development;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future;
- to provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning; and
- to encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences together.

The Nature of Home Learning Tasks

Home learning tasks can be issued in many different forms with a number of different expectations and outcomes. When setting home learning, teachers will always bear the following points in mind:

- Home learning should not cause undue stress on the pupil.
- Home learning does not have to be a written task.
- Home learning should be set regularly.

Amount of homework

Home learning should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Home learning is set each week. The school does not specify time allocations for homework however daily reading is to be encouraged. The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.
Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Inclusion and homework

We set home learning tasks for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting home learning tasks to pupils who are named on the SEND register, we refer to those pupils' Learning Plans. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

Home Learning Tasks

Please encourage children to read their reading book at least four times a week at home and record this on Marvellous Me in their class's reading log. We believe it is very important for young children to have books read to them too. Sharing books (stories, poems, comics, songs and rhymes) is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers. Reading together really supports the development of a child's love of reading.

Year Group:	Home Learning Opportunities
EYFS Reception	Home reading book (to be read to you by your child) – Changed weekly - Please remember to complete their reading log on Marvellous Me to show that they have read to you during the week. Library Book (a book to be shared and for parents to read to their child) – Changed weekly – Parents can attend our Parent Library sessions (please see your child's class timetable) Home learning tasks (additional practical and written home learning opportunities with a range of activities across the EYFS curriculum set via Tapestry)
Y1 - Y2	Home reading book (to be read to you by your child) – Changed weekly - Please remember to complete their reading log on Marvellous Me to show that they have read to you during the week. Library Book (a book to be shared and for parents to read to their child) – Changed weekly – Parents can attend our Parent Library sessions (please see your child's class timetable) Home learning tasks - these are sent home weekly and provide additional practical and written home learning opportunities linking to the wider curriculum within class. These may include Maths, Spelling activities, Science, History, Geography or Creative work.

In addition, children are encouraged to share their incidental writing from home i.e. lists, letters, stories etc. These are celebrated – children receive a writing award on Marvellous Me and their work is displayed in the corridor.

There is a class prize for the class with the most reading records recorded each week. The class with the highest number of reading logs receives a new story book for their class book box.

Role of the Deputy Head Teacher

- To support teachers in planning the home learning opportunities for their year group and/or class.
- To provide teachers with [guidance for home learning](#) which is reviewed at least annually.
- To gather feedback from pupils, parents and staff about home learning and use this information to review our policy and procedures.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of home learning tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance on how they might assist their child. This may be done on the home learning activity, by a note with the work or at a parents' meeting or at an open evening. Please use the [guidance for home learning](#) and Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of this policy.
- To set regular home learning opportunities in an easily followed routine.
- To set home learning tasks that take equal opportunities into account e.g. if a pupil doesn't have internet access make sure a paper copy is available.
- To give children opportunities to complete home learning at lunchtimes or break times if necessary.
- To ensure any home learning is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- To celebrate, reward and praise children who regularly complete home learning tasks.

Role of the Parent

Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents to remember to complete their child's reading log on Marvellous Me to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them.

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the home learning.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their home learning tasks.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their home learning tasks.
- To become actively involved and support their child with home learning activities.
- To make it clear that they value home learning.
- To ask the child's class teacher if they are unsure about a home learning task or need it explaining.
- Homework books in Year 1 and Year 2 are sent out on a Wednesday and are to be returned to school on the following Monday.

Use of the Internet and Devices

The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and devices and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of the internet and devices has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

Supporting Parents and Carers

There are a variety of opportunities offered by the school to help parents and carers support their child's home learning.

- At parents' meetings, teachers can advise parents on how they can support their children at home.
- For each unit of learning, parents can access the curriculum map on the school website which explain what the children are learning across all subjects in each year group.
- The school runs a variety of parent events and workshops throughout the year.
- Pupils are given home reading books at their reading level to support their reading at home.
- Pupils have library books to read and enjoy.

- Information is sent home each half term to Y1 and Y2 parents via the children's home learning books (see Appendix 2 for examples). Parents can use Marvellous Me to email their child's class teacher if there are any questions or concerns about home learning.
- Parents of children in Reception will receive home learning via Tapestry and can ask teachers questions via Tapestry if there are any concerns.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school home learning policy. Our home learning policy is reviewed at least every three years by the Governing Body and is checked at least annually by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure it still meets our needs.

Appendix 1: Violet Way Home Learning Expectations – Reference for Teachers

Year 1 & Year 2 Home Learning Expectations at Violet Way

- In Year 1 and 2 the children will have weekly homework alternating Maths one week then English the following week.
- Homework will always be linked to learning in school that the children have previously done and will not be 'new' learning.
- Children will also have half term learning unit homework activities which they can choose from over the half term
- Homework books are to be sent out on a Wednesday and are to be returned to school on the following Monday.
- Children who complete homework and return books to school are to receive a thumbs up each time.
- Praise badges can also be awarded to children who have tried hard with their home learning.
- Ensure that English and Maths homework is suitable for the children in your class. Children with SEND and/or those who are working at W or B may need a different English or Maths Homework tasks to children who are working at expected or above.
- Please double check all homework before it is sent out to parents to ensure that there are no errors on the sheet – typing or spelling errors and the instructions for the children and the parents are clear and make sense.

EYFS Home Learning Expectations at Violet Way

- In EYFS the children will have weekly home learning opportunities set via Tapestry.
- Home learning will always be linked to learning in school that the children have previously done and will not be 'new' learning.
- Children will be set a range of home learning opportunities across all areas of learning, with a key focus on the Prime Areas and Reading, Writing and Maths.
- Home learning tasks are sent out via Tapestry on a Wednesday and should be completed by the following Monday.
- Children who complete home learning, are to receive a thumbs up each time.
- Praise badges can also be awarded to children who have tried hard with their home learning.
- Ensure that home learning is suitable for the children in your class. Children with SEND and/or those who are working below age related expectations may need a different task to children who are working at expected or above.
- Please double check all homework before it is sent out to parents to ensure that there are no errors – typing or spelling errors and the instructions for the children and the parents are clear and make sense.

Appendix 2: Violet Way Information for Parents/Carers - examples

Year 1 Homework at Violet Way

In Year 1 and 2 the children will bring home a purple homework book with a weekly homework task in. This homework builds on learning that the children have been doing in school. There will be English homework one week then Maths Homework the following week. Children will also have additional homework activities linked to their Topic in school that half term. You can choose which of these activities you would like to complete at home. Books will come home on a *Wednesday* and need to be returned to school on the following *Monday*.

Reading a key part of your child's learning at Violet Way and reading books are sent home on a Monday and then need to be returned to school the following Monday.

Children can also develop reading and writing skills at home through real life experiences:

- Writing shopping lists
- Writing birthday cards for friends and family
- Writing postcards when away on holiday
- Looking for capital letters, initial sounds in the alphabet or special friend sounds in your environment on car registration plates, road signs, shop signs etc.



These are the tricky words that your child needs to spell by the end of Year 1. Please practise any of these to further support your child through games and activities at home:

all are as at be but can came for had
have him his my new no not on one said
she so they two we when with you

To further support your child in Maths there are many real life Maths skills your child can develop at home:

- Weighing during cooking
- Telling the time – o'clock and half past
- Counting money when shopping
- Capacity using different tubs or jugs during bath time
- Looking for 2D and 3D Shapes in world that you can see when you go for a walk or drive in the car



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. Thank you.

Example: Me and my Environment Topic Homework

Year 1 will have a choice of homework for the next few weeks. Our topic is currently called Me and my Environment and is all about ourselves and our environment therefore all the homework is based around this. The children can complete homework and add any tasks they have done into their homework books.

Date the homework you have decided to do each week.

<u>Choices</u>	<u>Date completed</u>
<p>Collect leaves and then use the leaves to Make a leaf man or a leaf character. Create some leaf prints by painting leaves and pressing them onto a plain piece of paper. Try some leaf rubbings.</p> 	
<p>Go on a woodland hunt and find signs of Autumn – leaves that have changed colour, cones, pine cones etc</p>	
<p>Find a stone and see if you can paint and turn it into a Ladybird.</p> 	
<p>Go on a hunt in your garden, park or woodlands. Can you find any of the following: Could make something with them?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>stick tree flowers stone</i> <i>branch roots tree stump</i></p>	

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Reading a key part of your child's learning at Violet Way and reading books are sent home on a Monday and then need to be returned to school the following Monday.

Children can also develop reading and writing skills at home through real life experiences:

- Writing shopping lists
- Writing birthday cards for friends and family
- Writing postcards when away on holiday
- Looking for capital letters, initial sounds in the alphabet or special friend sounds in your environment on car registration plates, road signs, shop signs etc.



These are the tricky words that your child needs to spell by the end of Year 1. Please practise any of these to further support your child through games and activities at home:

about an back because been before big by call come could did
do down first from get go going has her here if into like
little look made make me more much must now off old only
or our other out over right see some their them there then
this up want well went were what where which who will

To further support your child in Maths there are many real life Maths skills your child can develop at home:

- Weighing during cooking
- Telling the time – o clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to.
- Counting money when shopping
- Capacity using different tubs or jugs during bath time
- Looking for 2D and 3D Shapes in world that you can see when you go for a walk or drive in the car



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. Thank you.

Example: Healthy Me Topic Homework

Year 2 will have a choice of homework for the next few weeks. Our topic is currently called Healthy Me and is all about ourselves and how we keep healthy therefore all the homework is based around this. The children can complete homework and add any tasks they have done into their homework books.

Date the homework you have decided to do each week.

<u>Choices</u>	<u>Date completed</u>
<p>Follow a recipe to make a healthy snack or a healthy meal. You could take a photo or draw a picture of your healthy meal or snack and write a sentence to say what you have made and why it is healthy.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>	
<p>Make an exercise circuit around your house or in your garden. You could have different activities to complete in each part this could include skipping, jumping, hopping, throwing, catching, running.</p> <p>Write a list to show your exercise circuit and what you have to do. Get your family to join in too.</p>	
<p>Can you think of a type of fruit or vegetable that start with as many different letters of the alphabet that you can? Start on A can you get all the way to Z?</p>	
<p>Create some fruit or vegetable art – you could draw, colour or paint pictures of fruit and vegetables or use fruit and vegetables to print in paints and make pictures.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>	