

# West Exmoor Federation



## A Policy for Home Learning

May 2016

## **West Exmoor Federation - A Policy for Home Learning**

### **Rationale**

Home learning can support and reinforce the work which is being carried out in school and can provide a means where parents/carers can take an active part in their child's education thus enhancing links between home and school.

### **Aims and Objectives**

To support, reinforce and enhance the learning undertaken in school.

To give children additional supervised time during which they can practise independent learning skills.

To enable parents/carers to participate in their children's learning.

To give parents/carers an insight into the curriculum.

To create a disciplined approach to home learning as a preparation for secondary school.

To enhance school standards of achievement.

### **Guidelines**

#### Home Learning Tasks

The most valuable home learning a parent/carer can carry out with their child is to hear them read regularly and to share books with them in a positive and constructive way. Helping a child to read and to develop a love of books is one of the most important and influential factors in children's educational development.

It is recommended that children will spend at least 20 minutes a day either reading with or to\* their parents or carers (\*depending on their ability).

Each term a pack of suggested home learning tasks will be provided that support all areas of the curriculum within a cross-curricular way. In addition to this a range of appropriate maths and English tasks will be set.

Year 6 will be given revision for KS2 tests as the test period approaches.

A celebratory 'Home Learning Assembly' will be held at the end of each term.

#### Special Needs

Consideration will be given to the varying abilities of children with Special Needs. Where normal home learning activities are considered inappropriate, other activities will be offered in consultation with parents.

### **General Advice**

Good primary school practice requires that we give credence to other developmental needs of the child. Within the Federation schools we appreciate the value of extra curricular activities, (sport, music, dance, drama, the uniformed groups, other hobbies etc.) A well balanced, healthy child should be encouraged to develop their particular interests in a range of these activities in their own time.

Care must be taken by parents/carers to gently encourage, rather than pressurise. This can have a negative effect on learning and children can easily become disaffected or 'turned off' a particular subject at school. We want children to enjoy their learning!

Although we would encourage parents/carers to support their children with their home learning, care must be taken not to intervene too much and end up doing it for them. It is important that the teachers see what the children are capable of doing themselves.

There are many ways of supporting set home learning tasks and also other ways in which a parent/carer can assist their child with learning at home as follows:

*Sharing books - visiting libraries - providing them with varied and interesting reading material i.e. magazines.*

*Encouraging them to watch educational T.V. programs, especially when connected with a topic being undertaken in school.*

*Taking them on visits of educational interest during a family holiday.*

*Allowing them to help with shopping and calculate overall costs.*

*Giving them access to carefully controlled and monitored ICT.*

*Encouraging them to take up an outside hobby/interest.*

*Taking them to music shows and interesting films.*