



Garden Fields JMI School

Home Reader Policy

Updated: November 2010

Review Date: September 2013

Introduction

Home reading is anything that children read outside the normal school day and contributes to their learning. Home reading encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers or parents to support and enhance children's reading experiences.

For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with home reading, as would a child reading instructions for a game or from a cookery book.

Rationale for home reading

Home reading is an important part of any child's education and can add much to their development in *all* areas of the curriculum by allowing them to access information easily and accurately.

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to read both at home and at school and we see home reading as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

We ask all children to take part in a daily reading activity as a normal part of home life. This should be shared with an older person who is capable of extending this activity to include discussion, analysis and comprehension of the text at the level appropriate for the child.

All the children are provided with a school diary or reading record, where the parent or teacher or teaching assistant (TA) can sign and make any relevant comments, to show that the child has taken part in their daily home reading activity.

Parents can support their child by providing a 'happy' and relaxed reading environment and by encouraging and providing opportunities for reading as often as possible. E.g. by enabling their child to visit the library regularly to provide a variety of text types.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of home reading are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent reading
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's reading;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be accessed.
- to provide reading opportunities not possible in school;

- to consolidate and reinforce reading done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of home reading

Reading scheme books

Library books

Information books

Comics

Timetables

Shopping lists

Internet

Instructions

Etc.

Amount of home reading (see appendix 1)

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 1: Home Reading Expectations at Garden Fields

Home Reading refers to any reading or activities which pupils do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Throughout the school, daily reading, either within reading workshops or individually takes place, teaching staff in KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 will endeavour to hear your child read at least once a week. Parents or carers should sign and make relevant comments in the reading diaries this helps the teacher to monitor your child's progress. The diaries are usually checked and signed by a teacher at the end of each week.

1. For children in the Early Years Foundation Stage; one library books will be sent home weekly for parents and carers to share. These books will be self selected. When the children start the RWI green story books, they are ready to access the school reading scheme. These will be changed regularly each week on Tuesday and Thursday.
2. For the children in Key Stage 1, Years 1 and 2; home reading books will be changed regularly each week. This is usually done for them and follows the school reading scheme which ensures breadth and progression. Prompts and suggestions are available to parents at the front of the reading diary to support your child with their reading.
3. Children LKS2, Years 3 and 4 children will regularly change their home reading books. They will be able to self select from our free readers or be directed to the appropriate level within the reading scheme.
4. Children in UKS2, Years 5 and 6 will be expected to have a home reading book whether it is a school book or their own. Their homework diaries will be checked on a regular basis to ensure reading is taking place.
5. It is expected that, parents or carers will work with and support their children when they are doing their home reading. From Year 5 onwards, children will increasingly be expected to be more independent in their home reading. This will help them prepare for the demands of secondary education.
6. Every effort will be made to ensure that home reading is appropriate for individual children, and does not demand too much or too little from children and their parents.
7. Parents will be able to provide feedback on reading by writing in their Home/School Books – Homework Diaries.
8. Teachers will inform parents if children regularly fail to do their home reading.
9. Parents are requested to provide a reasonably quiet place, in which children can do their home reading and where possible engage the children in activities which enable them to use their reading skills in contextual situations.