

Home Learning Policy

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Version history	
January 2017	Version 1: policy created AC
July 2018	Version 2: rewritten AW
September 2019	Version 2.1: KF Page 1: bullet points added, Ed City set 'every week/two week or by block'
October 2019	Version 3 rewritten EB

In line with our commitment to latest initiatives in Bahrain, we believe that home learning should be fun, provide opportunities for deeper learning and develop a well-rounded child. Our Home Learning Policy promotes collaboration with parents. Worldwide research into the value of prescriptive homework in a primary setting shows that it has very little to no impact on attainment and can even have negative effects on mental health and family life.

Teachers will provide opportunities and ideas for home learning. These home learning activities are not be mandatory but are encouraged as they are excellent ways to support all aspects of a child's development outside of school.

The school will communicate these suggestions for home learning via:

- Welcome Evening Presentations
- Dojo messages
- Parent-teacher discussions
- Workshops
- Google Classroom (Year 4 to Year 6)
- Year 6 transition meetings
- The Supporting Home Learning Document (please see appendix 1)

What home learning could a child at Nadeen School be doing? (see Appendix 1)?

- Children should be exposed to reading every day.
- Practising phonics and spellings.
- Practising maths.
- Completing deeper learning activities, such as SOLE projects (Self-Organised Learning Environment) or longer-term topic-related projects.
- Given opportunities to play, develop hobbies, learn to play an instrument, participate in physical activities and broaden interests.
- And so much more (this is not an exhaustive list...)

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All class teachers communicate with parents, as a minimum, at the start of every 3-week block, via Dojo or email, explaining the big question for the next block, the text to be studied in the English teaching sequence, the areas of maths to be covered and the phonics sounds being covered / spelling rules with some examples. Learning Support teachers will also do the same. This information can help parents to be part of children's learning journey through discussion, play and opportunities to enhance learning at home.

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Appendix 1

Supporting Home Learning (Appendix 1 to Home Learning Policy)

What does home learning look like for my child?

All children benefit from **reading** every day. At a pre-reading level, this would involve looking at books, describing pictures, telling stories orally or being read to by an adult. At an emergent / early reading level, this would be reading their banded reading books at home, as well as participating in 'family reading' – the sharing of books and stories and being read to by an adult. At a more fluent reading level, this would involve reading to an adult and / or reading independently. The more discussion at home about what children are reading, the better for their reading skills. Year 6 children are not too old to be read to at bedtime!

In school, children practise **phonics or spelling**. Spellings could include tricky words from Letters and Sounds; high frequency or medium frequency words; practising spelling patterns (as per No Nonsense Spelling programme); practising the year 3/4 or year 5/6 statutory spelling lists. To consolidate this learning, here some fun activities to try at home:

- playing games on www.phonicsplay.co.uk or doing simple phonics activities / games (like 'I spy' or draw me some things that begin with 'ch' or listing words that have the 'ay' sound in)
- making words learned in class with magnetic letters / fingers in sand or shaving foam on a table / wet paintbrush on a blackboard / playdough / etc. to reinforce the shape of them and the muscle memory to make them
- playing the individually targeted activities on Education City
- making up nonsense rhymes using spelling patterns
- writing poems and short stories
- helping make shopping lists; keeping diaries; holiday itineraries and writing to family members etc.

To enhance your child's learning in **maths**, here are some home-learning activities:

- practising Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) such as counting in steps, number bonds etc.
- play with numbers from car registrations whilst sitting in traffic e.g. add the even numbers; times the odds; add the first and last number etc. Depending on age and ability
- noticing shapes in the environment
- involving your child in shopping and cooking; reading clocks and traffic signs to understand measurement
- setting the table to understand multiples
- playing interactive games like 'play live' on Education City

In addition, there will be opportunities for deeper learning, such as **SOLE projects** (Self-Organised Learning Environment) or **longer-term topic-related projects** (STEAM projects).

We believe learning does not stop when a child steps out of the school gate but should be encouraged to seek **opportunities that develop a well-rounded human being**. Ways to improve children's cognitive development, social skills, language acquisition, physical development and the arts at home are:

- talking / discussing / debating as a family
- learning a musical instrument
- cooking

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- take an art class
- board games / card games
- outdoor problem-solving activities, such as den building or camping
- activities to build fine motor skills, such as sewing / knitting, model making, small lego, construction sets
- dressing up and role play
- playing for a sports team
- brownies / Cubs
- dance classes, swimming and other physical activities
- and so much more...

At Nadeen School, we believe that children's evenings and weekends are better filled with activities like these than with formal homework tasks.