



NADEEN
SCHOOL
BAHRAIN

Home Learning Policy

Vision and Mission

We are a child-centred, inclusive and diverse family with a shared love of learning.

Our mission is to provide a caring, nurturing and empowering environment in which all children can learn and thrive. Our children and team have the skills and mindset to:

- think, explore and grow
- celebrate and respect ourselves and the people around us
- be compassionate and have a positive impact on the world

Purpose

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 in addition to enabling students to develop 21st Century Skills to prepare them for rapidly changing world. 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.

Aim

This policy outlines the tools and the expectations for safe and productive online learning within our school community. Protocols are described for staff, students and parents in terms of keeping learning at the forefront of technology use and avoiding any potential risks.

Alongside everyday learning, there are three potential scenarios where Nadeen School may need to provide online learning due to Student Absence or School Closure:

- The School is open but there are increased absences.
- The School is open but there are significant or prolonged absences.
- Access to the school is temporarily suspended but learning is continued online.

1. **Home Learning** - guidelines for learning when the provision is off site.

Teachers will provide opportunities and ideas for home learning.

These home learning activities are not 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
- Parent-teacher discussions
- Workshops
- Google Classroom (Year 4 to Year 7)
- Year 6 transition meetings
- The Supporting Home Learning Document (please see appendix 1)

What home learning could a child at Nadeen School be doing?

- 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...)

2. Virtual Learning - guidelines for learning when the provision is on site.

Virtual Learning can be accessed temporarily when the provision is on-site. This provision is adapted and information is included below with the aim being all students return to the site.

Update August 2022. It is no longer mandatory for schools to provide Virtual Learning for students, shared by the Ministry of Education on Tuesday 2nd August 2022.

The Ministry of Education has announced that the syllabus system for the coming academic year 2022/23 in all kindergartens, schools, universities, government and private educational institutions at all stages will be mandatory attendance for all students. The ministry clarified that there would be no choice for parents to attend their children to receive in-person or remotely learning, assuring its keenness to provide for all the requirements for a successful back to school.

At Nadeen School, following the announcement from the Ministry above, our provision for learning will be on site.

For students unable to attend or overseas, we will offer an extra provision to help support with Year 3 and above, including:

- Students will be included in Google Classrooms to have the same access as those onsite.
- A link to a curriculum plan for all year groups.
- A weekly class email from the teacher.
- An appointment to discuss your child/their progress over email or an online meeting when required.
- Access to our book list covered in school.
- The resources from the online subscriptions used on site will be available.
- An opportunity for a teacher/student conference if needed, as directed by the class teacher.

We look forward to following the Ministry guidance above, offering high-quality learning opportunities and for our students to be back onsite at school.

3. Online Learning during school hours

Teachers will inform families of any updates through the school email. This will be the form of communication to contact everyone in the first instance.

Primary School (Early Years to Year 6)

Staff will use a variety of online learning tools in line with their curriculum planning to enhance and transform student learning. These online tools will have been checked for appropriateness to the age group and relevance to the curriculum. These online tools include but are not limited to Google Classroom, subscribed online portals and external websites that have been checked by the member of staff for suitability for that age group. Students not able to attend school will have full access to these online tools. The aim of these tools is to enhance good teaching and effective learning, through the opportunity to embrace contemporary technology to experience learning that offers a range of opportunities to personally research and inquire, to become self-motivated and responsible learners.

Secondary School (Year 7 onwards)

Staff will use a variety of online learning tools in line with their curriculum planning to enhance and transform student learning. These online tools will have been checked for appropriateness to the age

group and relevance to the curriculum. These online tools include but are not limited to Google Classroom, subscription services, and external websites that have been checked by the member of staff for suitability for that age group. Students not able to attend school will have full access to these online tools. The aim of these tools is to enhance good teaching and effective learning.

4. Communicating each block

All class teachers communicate with parents, as a minimum, at the start of every 3-week block, via 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.

5. Protocols for use of technology linked to Nadeen School learning at home

For students:

Students are expected to

- have all the resources necessary for successful learning (Device, books etc)
- complete any tasks set within the time given and to a high standard
- use technology sensibly, responsibly, and safely showing an understanding of digital literacy
- not share any personal information during online learning lessons
- contact their teacher if they are worried about anything during online learning sessions linked to the safe use of technology
- online learning should be based in a suitable learning space i.e. communal area, not bedrooms and students should be suitably dressed i.e. formal/ smart casual (not in pyjamas etc.)
- only use the school email address for contacting teachers

For staff:

Staff are expected to

- set work as scheduled
- plan, prepare, deliver and assess following the same expectations as for normal working practice
- ensure that all resources are shared out via email
- respond to student questions and give feedback on learning
- set additional home learning activities according to the expectations and needs of particular year groups
- refer any concerns linked to the safe use of technology to the DSL using the safeguarding referral form as usual
- refer any concerns linked to failure to engage with learning to the relevant Head of Phase
- online learning should be based in a suitable learning space i.e. communal area not bedrooms and staff should be suitably dressed i.e. formal/ smart casual
- not share any contact details other than the school email address

For parents:

Parents are expected to

- arrange and maintain a safe learning space in the house. This should be in a communal space where learning can be viewed and heard by an adult
- students at home should be suitably dressed i.e. smart casual (not in pyjamas etc.)
- discuss guidelines for appropriate use of device during school hours - ie for academic purposes only
- ensure that the learning timetable is shared, discussed and supported at home
- contact teachers with any concerns raised.
- contact the relevant Head of Phase with any concerns about the online learning process.

6. Home Learning Policy with other Nadeen School Policies

This policy is also used in conjunction with:

- E-Safety Policy
- Child Protection/safeguarding Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Marking and Feedback Policy

Written by:	SP
Reviewed by:	PW
Reviewed on:	July 2023
Indicative Review Date:	July 2024

This Policy is to be reviewed **every two years** by the Upper Leadership Team and updated as and when changes occur.

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.

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 5/6/7 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
- 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.