

Weston Schools Federation

Home Learning Policy 2025-2026

Introduction and Rationale

At Weston Schools Federation, we understand that children who consolidate their school learning at home make better progress. It is with this rationale that we plan our home learning tasks. Home learning is focused on the development of reading, maths, language skills and creativity. Tasks will usually be linked to year group enquiry questions or curriculum topics however may also be discrete opportunities to consolidate prior learning or apply skills in a different context.

We believe that home learning should be manageable for children to complete without substantial parental support and should. Parents and carers can help by providing a good routine and a suitable working space that will encourage focus. They can also help by giving children plenty of praise for their efforts and engaging in conversations - being curious about their learning.

Research shows that talk and conversation is at the centre of the learning process, firstly, because through talk we construct meaning and understanding, and secondly, through talk, we are exposed to and guided through new learning. We encourage children to build on their learning and make connections. Regular discussions at home can support children to build on their prior knowledge and make links to support them to embed learning into their long-term memory.

Above all, home learning should, where possible, be enjoyable, meaningful and support pupil progress.

The amount of home learning set will increase as children move up through the school linked to age related expectations and to prepare them for the next stage in their learning.

Aims

By setting home learning, we aim to foster a strong and positive partnership between home and school, enabling families to support learning and to ensure that children make the best possible progress. As a school we aim to set home learning that:

- is interesting, enjoyable, challenging and supports learning in class. Where appropriate, tasks will be adapted to support additional learning needs.
- extends and enriches learning opportunities, showing children that learning can take place anywhere and everywhere, not only in school.
- supports children to know and remember more.
- supports pupil progress.
- is manageable so that children can develop hobbies, interests, social skills and participate in out-of-school clubs and activities as these play a vital role in developing healthy habits for the future, maintaining balance in life and supporting mental health and wellbeing.
- support children develop responsibility for their own learning and develop independence.
- promotes a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's progress and learning.

What things will children be expected to do at home in Reception?

There is not a regular, weekly home learning task that is set by the teachers in Year R.

Please see below for guidelines.

Curriculum Area	Home Learning Task
Reading	<p>Read with their parent/carer every day.</p> <p>To begin with children will be given picture books from the class or school library, to develop language. Once ready, the children will be given a Little Wandle reading book to develop fluency in line with the school's chosen systematic synthetic phonics programme and are also allowed to choose a book.</p> <p>Listen to an adult read a story and discuss it together. A book is sent home from the class story box or the school library. Parents/carers can support their children by asking questions or linking themes in the book to real-life examples and experiences.</p> <p>All children are given access to an online BoomReader account to be completed by the parent/carer each day to show they have engaged in reading. Every entry on Boom Reader contributes to points for earning reading badges.</p>
Phonics and Spelling	<p>Practise reading the taught phonemes, graphemes and 'tricky words' which are sent home, to support fluency.</p>
Speaking and Listening	<p>Talk to their parent/carer about what they have been learning at school in particular reference to topic work. The teacher may also suggest nursery rhymes, song or poems to be shared at home.</p>
Mathematics	<p>At times children may be issued with simple number tasks that will support children's mathematical understanding, number recognition and formation. Children will use NumBots (an app or online maths game) to support fluency of early number knowledge.</p>
Creative Curriculum	<p>Home learning projects will be set each half term. A date of completion will be given at the start of the project along with clear instructions and guidance to help complete the task.</p>
Hot topics for discussion	<p>Children will be given topics or questions to discuss with family and friends at home to develop thinking and an awareness of different opinions.</p>

What things will children be expected to do at home in Year 1?

Weekly spellings are set by the teachers; children will be tested on these at the end of each week.

Please see below for guidelines.

Curriculum Area	Home Learning Task
Reading	<p>Read with their parent/carer every day. The children will be given a Little Wandle reading book to develop fluency in line with the school's chosen systematic synthetic phonics programme. This will have questions for adults to ask while reading.</p> <p>Listen to an adult read a story. This could be their chosen library book or a book from home.</p> <p>All children are given access to an online BoomReader account to be completed by the parent/carer each day to show they have engaged in reading. Every entry on Boom Reader contributes to points for earning reading badges.</p>
Phonics and Spelling	<p>Practise reading the taught phonemes, graphemes (digraphs and trigraphs) and 'tricky words' which are sent home at the discretion of the teacher, to support fluency. This may include practising taught strategies to read 'alien words and real words' in preparation for the Year 1 Phonics screening.</p> <p>Practise spelling 'tricky words' accurately and using their phonics to spell other words. Children will have a weekly spelling check to assess how well they know the spellings they have been given to learn.</p>
Speaking and Listening	<p>Talk to their parent/carer about what they have been learning at school in particular reference to topic work or a given question/task/thought.</p>
Mathematics	<p>At times children may be issued with simple number tasks that will support children's mathematical understanding and accurate number formation. Children will use NumBots (an app or online maths game) to support fluency of early number knowledge.</p>
Creative Curriculum	<p>Home learning projects will be set each half term. A date of completion will be given at the start of the project along with clear instructions and guidance to help complete the task.</p>
Hot topics for discussion	<p>Children will be given topics or questions to discuss with family and friends at home to develop thinking and an awareness of different opinions.</p>

What things will children be expected to do at home in Year 2 and 3?

Weekly spellings and times tables are set by the teachers; children will be tested on these at the end of each week.

Please see below for guidelines.

Curriculum Area	Home Learning Task
Speaking and Listening	Talk to parent/carers about what they have been learning at school. This may be through a specific speaking and listening homework, directed by the teacher.
Reading	<p>Read with their parent/carer every day. Children will have the opportunity to change their books regularly.</p> <p>All children are given access to an online BoomReader account to be completed by the parent/carer each day to show they have engaged in reading. Every entry on Boom Reader contributes to points for earning reading badges.</p>
Spelling	<p>In Year 2 children will practise spelling common exception words. Children will have a weekly spelling test to check their accuracy. They will also be assessed through their application in written work.</p> <p>In Year 3 children practise spelling patterns or words that are taken from the National Curriculum or are an identified area of focus. Spellings will be assessed through investigation and practical learning and applied in their writing throughout the half term. This will be in addition to the weekly spelling test.</p>
Mathematics	<p>In Year 2 children will use NumBots (an app or online maths game) to support speed and fluency of number knowledge. From the Spring term will also be encouraged to use the online programme 'Times Tables Rockstars' to improve children's understanding of times tables.</p> <p>In Year 3 children will use both Numbots and 'Times Tables Rockstars' to support speed and accuracy of number knowledge and fluency of times tables.</p>
Creative Curriculum	Home learning projects will be set each half term. A date of completion will be given at the start of the project along with clear instructions and guidance to help complete the task.
Hot topics for discussion	Children will be given topics or questions to discuss with family and friends at home to develop thinking and an awareness of different opinions.

What things will children be expected to do at home in Year 4, 5 and 6?

Weekly spellings and times tables are set by the teachers; children will be quizzed on these at the end of each week.

Please see below for guidelines.

Curriculum Area	Home Learning Task
Speaking and Listening	Talk to their parent/carer about what they have been learning about at school or a wider, global issue. This may be through a specific speaking and listening homework, directed by the teacher.
Reading	Read with/read to their parent/carer every day . Children will have the opportunity to change their books regularly. All children are given access to an online BoomReader account to be completed by the parent/carer each day to show they have engaged in reading. Every entry on Boom Reader contributes to points for earning reading badges.
Spelling	Practise spelling common exception words, spelling patterns or words which link to the current topic that are taken from the National Curriculum or are an identified area of focus. Spellings will be assessed through investigation and practical learning and applied in their writing throughout the half term. This will be in addition to a weekly spelling test.
Mathematics	In Year 4, 5 and 6 children will be encouraged to use the online maths programme 'Times Tables Rockstars'. This fun and engaging programme will support children in developing their understanding and rapid recall of multiplication facts. This is crucial to build rapid recall of times table facts (which will be tested nationally in Year 4) and to develop confidence and everyday skills for life.
Wider Curriculum	Home learning projects will be set each half term. A date of completion will be given at the start of the project along with clear instructions and guidance to help complete the task.
Hot topics for discussion	Children will be given topics or questions to discuss with family and friends at home to develop thinking and an awareness of different opinions.

Expectations for Year 6

It is important to note that in the Autumn and Spring Term Summer Year 6 children may have increased home learning tasks to support their learning gaps and readiness for the KS2 SATs. To support transition to secondary school, there will be an increase in home learning as we prepare our children for the increased expectations in Year 7 and beyond. We are aware of the additional organisational changes that children experience when they reach secondary school. To support this:

- Tasks and projects will be given with a variety of dates and deadlines to be met throughout the year.
- Tasks are not limited solely to those listed above
- Practice test papers may be set as required in small, manageable sections

Communication

Half termly home learning overviews will be sent home to parents and carers and published on the school websites. Staff will regularly and routinely remind pupils to complete home learning and will positively praise engagement by applying the positive behaviour policy.

Support

Staff will talk through home learning tasks with children, and they will be encouraged to raise questions, ask for support or share any concerns about completing the tasks as soon as possible and in good time, ahead of any deadlines.

We believe that informal dialogue is the most effective way to communicate. If parents or carers have any questions regarding home learning they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher or year leader in person at the end of the day. If the questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Assistant Head teacher in the relevant phase.

Where relevant and possible, the schools will aim to provide workshops and videos to help parents and carers to support learning at home.

Assessment, Feedback and Recognition

Staff will praise and reward the children for their efforts, dedication and resilience to complete home learning. Home learning may be assessed by staff marking, staff verbal feedback, peer marking, self-assessment and testing. Where appropriate, editing will be encouraged to support children in learning and achieving their best. Selected home learning projects will be displayed within the school, shared in year leader assemblies, published on the school website and the Weston Schools Federation Facebook page to celebrate creativity and resilience.

Monitoring

Home learning will be monitored by the middle and senior leadership team to ensure the pitch and challenge is appropriate and that it is supporting pupil progress. This will form part of our assessment and monitoring cycle.

Review and Evaluation of the Policy

The policy will be reviewed annually, to ensure it is kept in line with curriculum changes that take place within the school or externally.



Signed Chair of Governing Body:

[date]

Signed Headteacher:

[date]

Date of last review: September 2025

Date of next review: September 2026

