



# James Bateman Junior High School

## Home-Learning Policy

### 1. What is the purpose of home-learning?

Home-learning gives pupils the opportunity to continue their learning journey beyond the school timetable. Its purpose is to:

- Help pupils become independent and lifelong learners
- Promote self discipline; working to deadlines
- Involve parents/carers in the education of their child(ren).
- Promote learning outside the classroom

### 2. How do we ensure home-learning is useful and accessible?

When tasks are set, teachers will ensure that they are suitable for the age and ability of the pupil and the task will always support the learning in school. Home-learning will be set using 'dyslexia friendly' principles to ensure all children have the same opportunity to access the task.

### 3. What types of activities might be set?

Home-learning tasks can be set in many forms, these include:

- Reading
- Writing
- Preparing presentations for the class/year group/school.
- Finding out information
- Designing or constructing
- Solving problems
- Completing simple scientific experiments.
- Opportunities for pupils to 'prove' they have learned something studied in class.
- Evaluating learning
- Talking to/questioning family members
- Drawing

### 4. How much home-learning is set?

Home-learning will be set at appropriate times, based on the professional judgement of the teacher. However the following framework applies:

- Pupils will have one home-learning task per week in Maths, English and Science.

- Home-learning in core subjects should take the pupils 30-40 minutes to complete in Key Stage 2 and 45-60 minutes in Key Stage 3. Whilst preparing for national tests, pupils may be asked to spend more time on home-learning in core subjects.
- In all other subjects children will have two home-learning tasks per half term (2 x 1 hours as a guide) or the teacher may choose to set one ongoing project instead; this should take no longer than 3 hours.

### **5. How long will pupils have to complete their home-learning?**

Teachers will set reasonable deadlines for home-learning. When home-learning is set it will be recorded in planners; pupils will record the day in which the home-learning is set, instructions for task completion and the deadline for hand in. If the task requires more detailed instructions/success criteria, this will be given to the children on a separate 'dyslexia friendly' handout.

### **6. How is home-learning assessed?**

Home-learning will always be assessed by the teacher and feedback will be given in writing or orally to the pupil(s). Home-learning tasks, if written, will be stuck into books. Where any patterns of misunderstanding are found, teachers will use this knowledge to inform their future planning.

### **7. How can parents support children's home-learning?**

Parents/carers can support their children's progress in school by supporting our home-learning policy. Below are examples of how parents can assist children with their learning.

- Check planners to see if home-learning has been set.
- Where children don't understand aspects of the home-learning, write a short note in the planner for the teacher.
- Encourage children to be disciplined; perhaps setting aside a specific time each day for home-learning.
- Attends parent's evenings and target setting events.
- Avoid giving children the answers, instead focussing on how to arrive at an answer.
- Taking children to local libraries; encouraging them to choose their own books and enjoy reading.

### **8. Responsibilities**

Home-learning, as with all aspects of pupil's learning is a joint responsibility between the school, the pupils and the parents.

### **9. The School**

Teachers are responsible for setting home-learning in accordance with the principles in this policy. The importance of home-learning will always be emphasised to the pupils.

## **10. The Pupils**

Pupils are responsible for bringing home-learning back on time and completed to a high standard.

## **11. The Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers are responsible for supporting home-learning and encouraging their child(ren) to take pride in their efforts. To support learning at home, curriculum overviews are published for maths, English and science. Parents should access these via the website or request a paper copy directly from the school office if necessary.

## **12. Additional support for home-learning**

We recognise that parents/carers often lead busy lives and this can make it difficult to build time into the day for home-learning activities. Below is a range of strategies we have to ensure that children have the opportunity to complete home-learning:

- Home-learning club is open every lunchtime.
- Home-learning can be completed at the afterschool club; 'Time Out.'
- Sensible deadlines are set by the teachers.

## **13. Incentives to encourage the prompt return of home-learning**

When children return home-learning and provided it is of an acceptable standard, they will receive one signature. If all of the class return home-learning within the deadline, all children will receive an extra signature.

## **14. What if home-learning is not returned on time?**

Children will be asked to complete their home-learning at lunchtime(s).