



## ELSON JUNIOR SCHOOL

### Home Learning Policy

#### **OFSTED Criteria regarding home learning**

*Teachers set challenging home learning, in line with the school's policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.*

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of home learning is to engage children in activities that seek to make effective links between home and school in supporting their learning and development. Elson Junior School offers a range of home learning activities for pupils to engage with.

#### **Expectations**

Home learning will be set as a regular pattern during term time. Each child will be given a home learning book in which the home learning should be recorded. Home learning should be handed in every Wednesday.

#### **Half-Termly Home learning**

Each half-term, a range of topic home learning activities will be offered. The activities will have a wide range of challenge and pupils may choose which activities they would like to do. Each pupil will receive a copy of this and it will be available on the school website.

#### **Weekly Home learning**

*All home learning should be handed in on a Wednesday and new home learning will be handed out on a Thursday.*

#### **Spellings**

Pupils will be given spellings to learn each week. Each pupil will receive a copy of their spellings each week to stick into their home learning book. Pupils will be tested each week and will record their scores in their home learning book to bring home.

#### **Reading**

Pupils will visit the library each week and are expected to take home books to read. If a pupil is reading from the banded book section, they are able to change their books whenever they need to as they are encouraged to read more frequently to develop their fluency and understanding. Pupils will complete their home reading journals at school each morning.

### **Maths/English/Foundation home learning**

Additional home learning is offered on-line via Education City. The school subscribe to this website to offer pupils additional home learning opportunities linked to their class learning. The site is also used in school to complement lessons. Each child will receive their own log in and password and teachers will monitor and assess their progress on-line.

### **Recognition and Rewards**

All topic home learning will be shared in class each half-term and marked with a comment either by the teacher or a peer. Reading records will be stamp marked by the class teacher. Spelling home learning will be stamp marked by the class teacher. For each stamp mark, the child will receive 5 team points and a raffle ticket. Each piece will be given between 1 - 3 stamps based on effort and attainment.

All home learning will be logged when received by the class teacher. For pupils who complete all of their home learning each week (weekly home reading, weekly spelling practice, topic home learning completed and Education City activities completed weekly), the rewards will be as follows:

Autumn Term	Bronze certificate and an Elson pencil
Spring Term	Silver certificate and an Elson pen
Summer Term	Gold certificate and an invitation to an end of term home learning achievement celebration party

The end of year party will be by invitation only to pupils who have earned all three certificates.

For pupils who do not complete all of their home learning each term, they will receive a bronze certificate when they have completed all of their home learning over one term, this could be in the spring term. They would then have the opportunity to earn the silver certificate over the summer term.

### **Home learning Club**

If your child is unable to complete their home learning at home or if they need some extra support, there will be a home learning club that they can attend each week. This will be on a Monday lunchtime from 12.30 - 1pm. There will be one club each for lower and upper school. This will not be a punishment and pupils will not have to attend if they do not complete their home learning. This club will be offered with the sole purpose of positively engaging and supporting pupils who want to complete their learning.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How can I help my child?

- Provide a comfortable and quiet area and choose a time when your child is relaxed and not hurried.
- Talk through the set tasks and work alongside them, offering support when they need it.
- Make a game of learning number bonds or spellings: chant as you walk down the street, spot numbers or letters when out and about.
- Check your child's home learning when they have finished and feel free to write a comment into their home learning book.

### What if we do not understand the task?

- Get your child to re-read the instructions and ask them to recall the lesson from which the work comes. Talking this through often helps them to remember what the task entails.
- If that does not work, put the task aside, reassure your child that they will not be in trouble and tell them to ask the teacher to re-explain. Feel free to pop in to see the teacher to clarify what needs to be done.
- Above all do not let your child (or yourself) get anxious or upset.

### What if my child is becoming distressed?

- Stop them from continuing the task and try to find out what the problem is.
- Reassure them that as long as they try their best, they should not worry if the task is not completed - no-one will tell them off if they try and you let the teacher know.
- Let the teacher know of any difficulties.

### I want extra home learning for my child - what can I give them?

- Join the library and take your child as often as possible. Encourage them to read widely and choose both fiction and non-fiction books. Ask your child questions about the book they are reading and encourage them to retell the story or recall facts to you that they have read.
- Help your child to learn their times tables. They should be able to (by the end of year 4) recall all of the times tables up to 12. This includes division related facts as well as multiplication.
- Talk to the teacher if you feel your child needs any extra help.