



Home / School Policy

Person responsible: Headteacher
Ratified by the governing body: Summer 2021
Date for review: Spring 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne-Marie Renshaw', is positioned below the text.

Reverend Anne-Marie Renshaw
Chair of Governors

HOME/SCHOOL POLICY

Introduction

All parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community and we welcome a supportive and positive relationship. Children's learning is improved when we work in partnership with their parents or carers, and their wider family. We therefore believe in close cooperation with all families, and in regular consultation between the home and the school.

Aims

Our aims through parental involvement are:

- to be welcoming and approachable through our 'open door' policy
- to ensure an effective partnership between parents /carers and the school
- to enhance the learning experiences of all pupils;
- to encourage parents and carers to be involved in the children's learning;
- to provide a partnership between home and school seeking to ensure that families feel welcome and valued;
- to ensure that maximum use is made of all these adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities.

How do we support new families?

All parents and their children, whether starting school in the Reception class or mid-year, are encouraged to visit the school for a tour and to meet the headteacher and staff. This provides the opportunity for parents and children to ask any questions and to get a feeling for the ethos and atmosphere of the school.

All Reception families are invited to 'Learning Together' sessions in the summer term before starting in September, as part of the induction process. Through these, the children have the opportunity to meet and make friends with their new peers and to meet their class teacher. It also enables parents to meet each other and everyone to familiarise themselves with the school. This is also the time for the staff to reassure new families through answering any questions parents or children may have. A formal session starting school information session is also timetabled.

Our carefully planned induction programme recognises the importance that we place on making transition as smooth as possible during the early days so that children get off to a good start to their education at Messing Primary School.

How can you be involved in the life of the school?

We value the varied skills and talents that parents have and welcome these being shared with the children.

- Parents and carers are invited to help with groups and activities in class (e.g. listening to children read, or helping with practical activities).
- Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany groups on educational visits.
- Parents and carers are invited, where possible, to visit classes and groups of children to give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they are experts.
- Parent governors play a full role in the governing body, supporting the ethos and policies as well as helping to shape the future of the school.
- We also have an active and highly valued PTFA who work voluntarily to provide enrichment opportunities for the children and raise funds to support life experiences or learning opportunities.

How can you be involved in the children's learning?

The most effective way to support pupils progress with their learning is through a close partnership and shared understanding between the school and families. We encourage this through:

- Learning partnership meetings within the first couple of weeks of the new school year where parents are invited in to school so that we can outline our approach to reading, home learning and communication.
- Regular sessions in class where parents are invited to learn strategies and approaches to learning alongside their children. The children really enjoy sharing and 'teaching' their parents. These may include approaches for areas of maths, reading, spelling etc.
- Celebrating the children's achievements whether academic, sporting or in the arts is always a real pleasure for all. Parents / carers are invited to assemblies, festivals, performances, concerts, events and celebrations throughout the year.
- Home learning activities are set regularly within a clear and consistent policy (see below) and parents are encouraged to support their child with completing the home learning.

How do we ensure good communication between home and school?

- Our school website: www.messingprimaryschool.co.uk provides parents / carers with useful up to date information. Information about what the children will be learning can also be found here and is updated via a class topic letter each term.
- 'Classlist' App is used as the main means of communication from the school – email/paper copies of information are also available if requested.
- Parents are welcome to email the office admin@messingprimaryschool.co.uk the headteacher headteacher@messingprimaryschool.co.uk or the class teachers. We politely ask that this is within school hours. They may also phone the school 01621 815415.
- 'Tapestry' App is used in EYFS for updating parents/careers on their child's day and learning and is an excellent means for sharing photos and key events in the Reception children's lives.
- Parent/teacher consultation meetings are held twice a year to keep parents / carers informed about their child's progress with an end of year child's school report written by the class teacher to highlight strength and areas for development.
- Parents are encouraged to share any concerns, worries or good news and staff equally share any concerns or special achievements with parents. Many of these conversations are on an informal basis - occasionally a more formal meeting will be scheduled. It is often possible to speak to the class teacher briefly before or after school and if a longer meeting is requested, appointments should be made directly with them. If you wish to make an appointment to discuss issues further with the Headteacher or SENco, appointments can be made through our school office or via the email shared above; we will always endeavour to meet with parents as promptly as we can.
- Information meetings are held regularly eg. for new parents, or in preparation for SATs.

- Regular review meetings are held for parents of children with special educational needs to review their child's progress, paperwork and support.
- We use home school reading diaries as our daily written form of communication and ask that parents / carers ensure that these are placed in book bags each day. Parents are asked to check them regularly and to remind their child that if there is a message for us, they need to show us.

How are views and ideas about school improvement shared?

- We are a forward looking and reflective school and encourage all stakeholders to be involved in the development and further improvement of the school.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to complete an annual survey so that we can find out what we are doing well and what we could do better - this is then shared with all stakeholders.
- Parent /carer views are sought regarding key areas such as proposed changes to the school uniform, the behaviour policy; improvements in communications; changes to the timing of the school day; changes to report format; changes to school meals systems.
- Children, parents, governors and staff are all invited to share ideas for the school development plan each year and this is then shared on the school website.

HOME LEARNING POLICY

At Messing Primary School we believe that home learning makes an important contribution to children's progress at school. It enables children to share their experiences at school with parents and allows them to bring their experiences outside school into the classroom. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life.

Aims:

- To extend learning that takes place at school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics.
- To use valuable resources of the home and the wider community in the child's education.
- To foster responsibility, independence, organisation and self-discipline.
- To prepare older children for the expectations of secondary education.

Recommended Time for Homework:

At Messing Primary, home learning is set based on the Government's recommended times:

Key Stage 1: 1 hour per week

Key Stage 2:

Years 3 and 4 1½ hours per week

Years 5 and 6 2½ hours per week

Objectives:

In the **Early Years Foundation Stage** homework consists of reading and the discussion of books. Additional home learning activities are given regularly and may include learning sounds / sight words and practising handwriting.

In **Key Stage 1** reading is the main home learning activity. Additional home learning is set on a Wednesday to be returned on a Monday.

This may include learning sight words, spellings and practicing handwriting as well as activities and games to develop mathematics and literacy skills.

How can you help your child?

- ✓ Share and talk about books, including reading to your child.
- ✓ Encourage a love of books.
- ✓ Visit the library to broaden interests and the world around them.
- ✓ Read out signs and notices on the way to school.
- ✓ Guide your child in forming their letters correctly.
- ✓ Activities involving numbers.
- ✓ Lots of talking.
- ✓ Encourage children to take a pride in their work.

In **Key Stage 2** home learning is set weekly, on a Wednesday, to be handed in on the Monday of the following week. This gives parents and pupils the choice of an appropriate time to complete tasks.

Reading is still very important in KS2. All children should either read to their parents/ carers, listen to them reading or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 10 to 20 minutes a day. Suggestions for questions to discuss with your child are in their home/school link books. Discussion around the text is crucial for developing comprehension skills.

Home learning in Key Stage 2 consists of activities linked to work learnt at school but is varied. It will consist of a piece of Maths (Worksheet or 'Active learn' ICT based task –both in year 5/6), English and may include optional project work. It may consist of written work, completing assignments, finding out information, researching topics, preparing for oral presentations, games and problem solving to develop mathematics skills, learning spellings or multiplication tables.

Any pupil who fails to do complete or hand homework in on time will be required to complete their homework at a later date.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Children have a responsibility to:

- ✓ Complete homework tasks to the best of their ability ensuring good presentation and in the time span set.
- ✓ Share their tasks with the adults at home.
- ✓ To hand in their homework on time.

Parents have an important part to play in:

- ✓ Providing a quiet and peaceful place in which their child can work on tasks.
- ✓ Encouraging their child and praising them.
- ✓ Being involved but encouraging their child to lead the way.
- ✓ Sharing reading, including reading to their child.
- ✓ Encouraging their child to complete their homework and take pride in presenting it well

Teachers will:

- ✓ Ensure that the tasks are manageable, yet challenging, for the pupils and suited to their ability.
- ✓ Respond positively to work and ensure that it is marked along the aims of the school's Marking Policy.
- ✓ Value children's work completed at home and praise children for self-organisation.
- ✓ Make themselves available to discuss any issues arising from home learning tasks.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:

The Home Learning Policy is promoted throughout the school, its implementation and effectiveness is monitored regularly. This is to ensure that teachers and parents are completely clear about what is expected of pupils in terms of home learning and how it should be organised and managed.



Messing Primary **Home-School Agreement**

At Messing Primary School we provide a caring environment where each child's needs are recognised and supported and where each child is valued as an individual. Our school motto 'Every Child, Every chance, Every day' encapsulates this ethos. We value a strong partnership between staff, parents and carers as we know this is important in helping children to achieve and to enjoy learning. We are determined to create an inclusive culture of learning where all children will be challenged in their thinking, to achieve to the best of their abilities and strive to become lifelong learners.

This can be done most effectively when all staff, parents and children understand their responsibilities and work together towards the same goals, as detailed in our Home School Agreement. Our school values: 'Be safe, Be kind, Be responsible, Be respectful' underpin all we do. Through our growth mindset approach we encourage the children to further develop their lively, inquiring minds and ensure they progress as far as possible to achieve their full potential in every aspect of education.

Messing School

The school will do its best to:

- Encourage the children to do their best at all times;
- Take all steps to ensure the children's safety;
- Inform the parents of their child's progress at regular intervals;
- Inform the parents of activities and events through Newsletters, classlist and the school website;
- Provide a safe, secure and caring learning environment;
- Teach and encourage the children to do their best and achieve their full potential as a valued member of the school community;
- Develop in each child positive values and a caring attitude towards the school community and the environment;
- Set homework on a regular basis;
- Provide a balanced curriculum of the highest quality and meet the individual needs of every child;
- Inform children and parents/carers what the teachers aim to teach the children each term;
- Be welcoming and offer opportunities for parents/carers to become involved in the daily life of the school;
- Contact parents/carers as soon as concerns are raised about your child's work, behaviour, attendance or punctuality;
- Have a clear and consistent approach to rewards and sanctions for children as set out in the Behaviour Policy;

Parent /Carers

To help my child at school, I will do my best to:

- See that my child attends school regularly, is punctual and properly equipped and ready to learn;
- Inform the school on the first day of absence by 9.30;
- Raise any concerns or problems that might affect my child's ability to learn or behave appropriately;
- Support the school to make sure my child maintains good behaviour;
- Support my child with homework and other home learning opportunities and listen to my child read daily;
- Attend parent meetings with the teacher to discuss my child's achievements and progress;
- Support all staff in their efforts to create a caring community which values children and their rights;
- Support the school in getting any help my child may need;
- Read all letters/messages/emails that are sent home;
- Inform the school immediately of any changes to parents/carer and emergency contacts details.

Child

I will do my best to:

- Be safe. Be kind. Be responsible. Be respectful;
- Learn;
- Work hard and listen carefully to instructions;
- Come to school regularly and on time;
- Follow the school and class rules;
- Behave well at all times to maintain the safety of myself and others;
- Be polite, friendly and helpful to other children and all adults;
- Tell somebody if there is something I am not happy about;
- Do my homework regularly and return it to school on time;
- Bring all the equipment I need every day including my PE kit, book bag and reading books;
- Take good care of the school environment and living things.

Together We Will:

- Support the children's learning to help them always achieve their best.
- Encourage all aspects of the child including their emotional, social and academic development.

