



# Home / School Policy

**Person responsible: Headteacher**  
**Ratified by the governing body: Summer 2018**  
**Date for review: Spring 2021**

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

**Reverend Anne-Marie Renshaw**  
**Chair of Governors**

# **HOME/SCHOOL POLICY**

## **Aims:**

- To develop an effective partnership between parents / carers and involve them in their child's learning.
- That parents / carers are involved in and informed about what happens in school.
- To incorporate a home school agreement which sets out the expectations the school and parents have of each other and their commitment to obligations and responsibilities implied by these expectations.(See Appendix 1)

## **Principles and Objectives**

### **To be a welcoming school**

- We aim to be welcoming and approachable through our 'Open Door' policy.
- We offer tours for prospective parents / carers and pupils
- We provide effective induction for Reception and new pupils

All reception children and their parents / carers are invited to visit us prior to their children starting school for Learning Together sessions where they can visit the classroom and join in with activities; our staff may also visit the pre-school settings.

Parents / carers are invited to a new intake meeting prior to their children starting school. This is also an opportunity for children to spend time with their new teacher in the classroom setting and parents / carers are provided with key information prior to their child starting school.

During the first few weeks of the term, parents / carers are invited to a Learning partnership meeting for Parents / Carers to outline our approach to teaching of reading and how they can best support their child.

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.

Parents / carers are invited to assemblies, festivals, performances, concerts, events and celebrations throughout the year.

### **Commitment to developing good communication with parents / carers, keeping them informed about their child's progress, the curriculum and the school in general.**

- Our school website: [www.messingprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.messingprimaryschool.co.uk) provides parents / carers with useful information and links.
- 'Classlist' App is used for instant communication
- 'Tapestry' App is used in EYFS for updating parents/careers on their child's day and learning.
- The School Prospectus provides information about the school in general.
- Parents receive an overview of the curriculum to be studied by their child each term.

- Parent/teacher consultation meetings are held twice a year to keep parents / carers informed about their child's progress.
- Information meetings are held regularly eg. for new parents, in preparation for SATs.
- Learning sessions in class are held termly and are designed to keep parents up-to-date with any current initiatives or learning strategies and approaches.
- An end of year child's school report is written by the class teacher to highlight strengths, weaknesses and areas for development with targets for improvement.
- Regular review meetings are held for parents of children with special educational needs to review their child's progress, paperwork and support.
- Newsletters and letters are sent out regularly to keep parents updated with events within school. Copies of letters for the week are then posted in the Parents' Notice board outside the front of the school. If you think you have missed a letter, an extra copy can be obtained outside the school office. These are also on the school website.
- Both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils have Home / School Link Books  
We ask parents / carers to ensure that these are placed in book bags each day.  
In Class 1 we check these daily.  
In Class 2/3 they are checked weekly as we expect pupils in Key Stage 2 to develop more independence in keeping up to date. Children in KS2 are asked at the start of each day if they have any messages in their link book as a reminder. 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.
- Copies of school policies, minutes of Governing Body meetings are available for reading.

#### **Supporting parents / carers as educators of their children and as learners themselves.**

- Home learning tasks are set regularly with a clear and consistent policy.
- Regular learning sessions for parents/carers in class, take place to inform parent of how best to support their child with their learning.

#### **Consultation with parents / carers whenever possible about matters of direct concern to them, recognising the importance of listening to their views and perceptions.**

- Parent / carer surveys to find out what we are doing well and how we can do better.
- Parents informed of actions on the School Development Plan and views sought.
- Parent / carer views sought eg. changes to uniform, Behaviour Policy; improvements in communications; changes to the timing of the school day; changes to report format; changes to school meals systems.
- Information meetings eg. To view materials and ask questions prior to Sex Education.
- At key 'transition' points.

#### **Provide early warning of problem whether associated with work, relationships or discipline.**

- We are a welcoming school.
- We want parents / carers to feel welcome and involved in our school so we have an open door policy. It is often possible to speak to your child's class teacher briefly before or after school and, if necessary, appointments should be made directly with them. If you wish to make an appointment to discuss issues further with the Headteacher, SENCO, appointments can be made through our school office; we will endeavour to see you as promptly as we can. We will also contact parents / carers if we have any concerns.

## 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 School** **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.

We encourage the children to further develop their lively, inquiring minds and we ensure they progress as far as possible to achieve their full potential in every aspect of education.

### **The School Will:**

- Encourage the children to do their best at all times
- Take all steps to ensure the children's safety
- Encourage the children to care for others and for their environment
- Set homework on a regular basis
- Inform the parents of their child's progress at regular intervals
- Inform the parents of activities and events through Newsletters, the school website and letters home

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Teacher)

### **The Family Will:**

- Make sure the child arrives to school on time and collect them at 3.15pm.
- Ensure regular and consistent attendance
- Support the school in the promotion of good behaviour
- Make sure the child has suitable clothing for PE and Games
- Encourage the child to complete and hand in homework
- Attend Consultation Evenings to discuss their child's progress
- Keep the office informed of up-to-date contact details.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent)

### **The Child Will:**

- Do their best at all times
- Take care of others and their environment
- Be thoughtful, polite and friendly to everyone at school

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Child)

### **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.