



From mountain to sea

# Barthol Chapel School Home Learning Policy



## Overview

At Barthol Chapel School we believe in thinking. Therefore, we do not do something because “*that’s what we’ve always done*” or because “*that’s what everyone else is doing*”. We do it because we believe there is a better way; a more effective way that utilises our time to make a greater impact on the learning and lives of our children and families.

Homework is no different. We should always start by asking ourselves “*what is the purpose of homework?*” Research tell us that there is no evidence of any academic benefit supporting the value of homework for primary age children ([John Hattie says it “has an effect of zero”](#)) and there are grim uncertainties about whether homework benefits older students.

## At Barthol Chapel School

**Home Learning** will be the name at Barthol Chapel School which refers to learning activities which children undertake at home. Some **home learning** activities may be set by school. Many of these will be set by parents. It should be relevant and achievable for all learners. Home Learning will offer parents and children the opportunity to experience learning together. We will ensure that:

- Parents are clear about Barthol Chapel School Home Learning Approach.
- There is consistency of approach throughout the school.
- We provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children’s learning.
- We encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Home learning provides opportunities to practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- We encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.



## Our Vision

Barthol Chapel School is a place where everyone works together as a team to create a respectful ethos where we all try our best, learn from mistakes and celebrate each other's success. We do this by being our...



**Believe, Endeavour, Succeed, Together**

## Our Values



## Our “Home Learning” Approach

Instead of “set homework”, which traditionally involved children learning spelling, words, completing worksheets, our Home Learning approach involves the following:

- Instead of “homework”, the children will be encouraged to read books for pleasure and enjoyment. This will consist of a class reader with set pages to read from the teacher (guided reading). For some children, particularly fluent readers, children will complete independent reading from a book they have chosen, often their accelerated reader book.
- Instead of “homework”, the children will be provided with their **Mathletics Login** details. Children will be able to access this at home to practice and consolidate skills and knowledge in Numeracy & Mathematics. Class Teachers regularly set learning activities linked to the learning in class for children to complete independently. Class teachers can see the results for each child, identify strength and areas where further learning is required.
- Instead of “homework” we have compiled a “Home Learning Grid” which has examples of activities which you can complete at home. The children are encouraged to share and talk about these at school.



## **Best activities for promoting achievement**

Research suggests that the most effective types of home learning are:

- **Reading:** encourage your child to read books of their own choice. Your child can borrow books from the school library and local community library. Your child will also have access to a class library and a “reading group” book.
- **Relationships:** spend time as a family doing activities you enjoy, especially activities which support good health and wellbeing.
- **Parents having a good awareness of where their child’s learning “is at” and supporting where required e.g. using your child’s Personal learning Plan which comes home termly to discuss their learning, coming to school consultation meetings, open events, information events and performances.**

It is important to acknowledge that achievements of individuals, groups and classes should be seen through wall displays, shared at assemblies, reports in newsletters and articles in the local press. During assembly, positive relationships and achievements are celebrated and reinforced. Assembly offers the opportunity as a school to reflect on the desired relationships in school and to discuss problems and explore feelings.

## **Not Mandatory**

Home Learning will be offered to all children and parents can choose whether this is completed or not. Home learning tasks are not mandatory. Families should discuss this and agree with their child whether home learning takes place or not.

We would expect all parents and children to manage the reading part of home learning as this is fundamentally important to a child’s likely success in school and in later life. On occasion, teachers may create opportunities for home learning that exist out-with the grids such as to practise a Scots Poem or research a topic. Again, these are not mandatory tasks.

Teachers will not link rewards to home learning because it is optional. Teachers can recognise effort. Home learning will not be marked but will be shared and feedback given by children and the teacher. Children who have not completed school suggested home learning are welcome to bring in something they have done at home (e.g. describing an out of school activity).



## Home Learning Grid

*Watch the News or read a newspaper article.*

*Do a household chore without being asked.*

*Design a poster to save energy in your home.*

*Play boardgames with members of your family.*

*Pack my own schoolbag for school.*

*Read a book under your bed covers using a torch.*

*Create your own puppet show.*

*Learn days of the week, months of the year and seasons.*

*Count how many times you can throw and catch a ball without dropping it. Can you improve?*

*Practice riding my bike (without stabilisers or using what I have learned during Bikeability)*

*Invent a new game I can play with my family.*

*Recycle rubbish. Go on a litter pick.*

*Help at home with one chore each week.*

*Learn my times tables. Create a times table poster.*

*Practise telling the time. What time do I get up? What's my bedtime?*

*Make a new book cover for my favourite book. Remember to add the title and author.*

*Go on a nature walk. Look at all the different plants and trees.*

*Learn how to keep myself safe online.*



*Quick fire addition and subtraction. Maybe try adding 2 numbers together!*

*Go on a measuring hunt and find the weight/height/length of different objects.*

*Put my dirty washing away each night and hang / fold my clothes up ready for the next day.*

*Take responsibility for cleaning teeth at home morning and night.!*

*Learn how to be safe and cross the road correctly.*

*Try to wash myself, brush hair and clean teeth each morning independently.*

*Help a parent/carer plan the weekly shop to include healthy meal & snack choices.*

*Be able to describe stranger danger and what to do if you are lost.*

*Explore relaxation techniques such as yoga, deep breathing*

*Learn how to treat minor cuts and injuries.*

*Learn how to make a 999 call in case of an emergency. Do you know your address?*

*Write a book review recommending the book to a friend.*

*Make a bird feeder and record the number of birds that visit.*

*Help write a shopping list. Look at the price of items in the shops.*

*Learn to use money (coins and notes). Do you have enough to buy an item?*

*At the supermarket, look at the fruit and veg Can find out where they are from.*

*Plan a journey by using maps and road maps to plan or plot the route.*

*The sewing challenge: Learn how to do a running stitch. Can you sew on a button?*

*With an adult, help with a D.I.Y project. Remember to be safe!*

*Create a weather chart. Can you record the weather for a week?*

*Make your own healthy lunch.*



