



Home Learning Policy

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Introduction

During this period of long term closure, staff at Somerset Nursery School and Children's Centre will continue to provide education and support to our children through home learning. All learning will be conducted using Padlet, Zoom, email and phone calls. This will allow staff to keep regular contact with children in a professional and confidential manner. Learning resources and support will be provided in a manner that does not overwhelm children or families. Teaching and learning will be individualised using the extensive planning already in place, and replicate regular experiences offered at Somerset where possible. In all communication we will prioritise the wellbeing of our children.

Our Practice at Somerset

At Somerset the emphasis of our practice is on play and exploration, allowing the children to lead their own learning. It is through our observation of the children's own interests that we aim to provide an environment where, in order to become independent learners and thinkers, children can:

- operate independently with plenty of time for deep engagement
- explore a range of materials
- engage in both open ended play and adult-initiated activities
- extend their thinking through communication
- use a range of equipment which will develop skills including gross and fine motor skills
- be safe

We believe that children learn most effectively when:

- their physical and emotional needs are met
- they are actively involved
- they can use their initiative
- they have confidence in themselves and in the adults around them
- they can follow an activity through without time constraints
- they can use language to plan, sustain, describe and review their activities
- parents are engaged with their children's learning

Please refer to the Teaching and Learning policy for more information.

Aim

This home learning policy aims to:

- ensure consistency in the approach to home learning for all children who aren't in school through use of quality online and offline resources
- set out expectations for all members of the school community in regards to home learning
- provide appropriate guidelines for online safety and data protection
- support effective communication between school and families

Flexibility of Learning

We realise the circumstances that cause our school to close will affect families in a number of ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all sides:-

- parents may be trying to work from home and balancing work and home learning can be very difficult
- access to technology may be limited
- systems may not always function as they should

An understanding of, and willingness to adapt to these difficulties is essential for successful home learning.

Expectation Management

We believe it is in the best interests of our children to continue learning through play based experiences at home. Bearing in mind the need for flexibility, no deadlines will be set. Teaching staff will provide detailed instructions and appropriate support for parents and carers with activities. All activities and resources will be developed with home learning and access to everyday materials in mind.

Teaching staff will:-

- share weekly home learning resources and activities linked to current planning through Padlet, Zoom or email
- have regular contact with families via phone, email or Zoom.
- reply to messages, emails and give support and feedback during normal school teaching hours

Parents and carers will:-

- support their child's learning to the best of their ability
- know they can contact members of teaching staff for support or additional home learning resources
- refrain from screenshotting or copying any information, messages or posts to share on social media or any other platform
- understand that play is the most effective way for young children to learn and have realistic expectations of their ability to sit and concentrate
- provide appropriate supervision and support when children are using digital technology

Senior leaders will:-

- coordinate the home learning approach
- monitor the effectiveness of home learning through regular meetings with teaching staff and feedback from parents and carers
- monitor the security of home learning systems including data protection and safeguarding considerations

Designated safeguarding lead

The DSL is responsible for managing and dealing with all safeguarding concerns. For further information please see the Child Protection and Online-safety Policy.