

'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock

Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Deputy Headteacher: Jenna Leverton

15th July 2025

Home Learning Consultation Update – Parent and Staff Voice and Policy

Dear Walkley Parents / Carers,

Earlier this school year we invited our parents and staff to complete a questionnaire asking a range of questions about Home Learning. At the heart of this consultation, is a desire to align the views and experiences of our parents, pupils and staff with the research around effective home learning, that reinforces classroom learning and develops good habits; fostering independent learning skills. We are also committed to reduce unnecessary workload for our teachers.

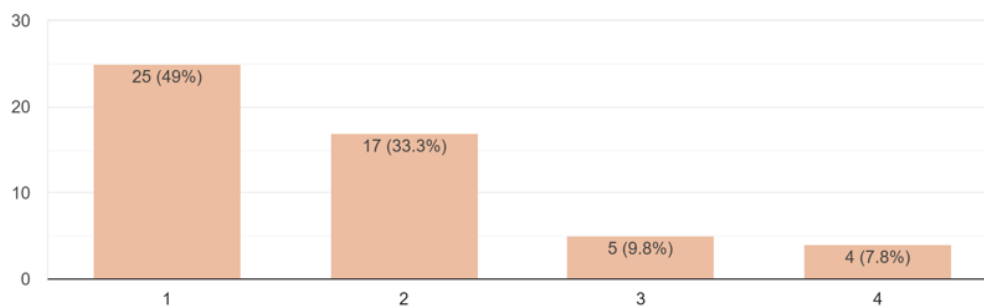
Extensive research undertaken by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) in 2021, provided 4 key findings:

1. Homework has a positive impact on average (+ 5 months), particularly with pupils in secondary schools.
2. Some pupils may not have a quiet space for home learning – it is important for schools to consider how home learning can be supported (e.g. through providing homework clubs for pupils).
3. Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective. In particular, studies that included feedback on homework had higher impacts on learning.
4. It is important to make the purpose of homework clear to pupils (e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or to develop fluency in a particular area).

Parental responses:

- 45.1% of parents said they were satisfied (scoring 4/5 or 5/5) with the amount of home learning their child receives.
- 27.4% of parents said they were dissatisfied (scoring 1/5 or 2/5) with the amount of home learning their child receives.

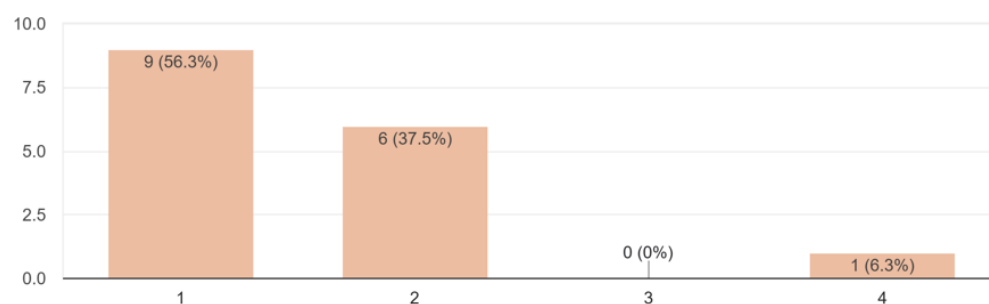
How many pieces of home learning do you think is appropriate for your child per week?



Staff responses:

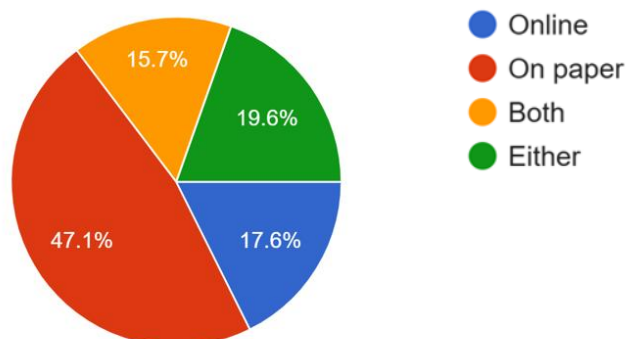
- 47.1% of staff said they were satisfied (scoring 4/5 or 5/5) with the amount of home learning their child receives.
- 29.4% of staff said they were dissatisfied (scoring 1/5 or 2/5) with the amount of home learning their child receives.

How many pieces of home learning do you think is appropriate for your pupils per week?

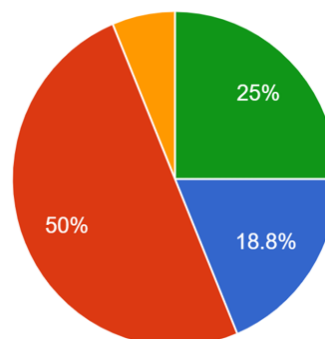


What is your preferred method of home learning?

Parental responses:

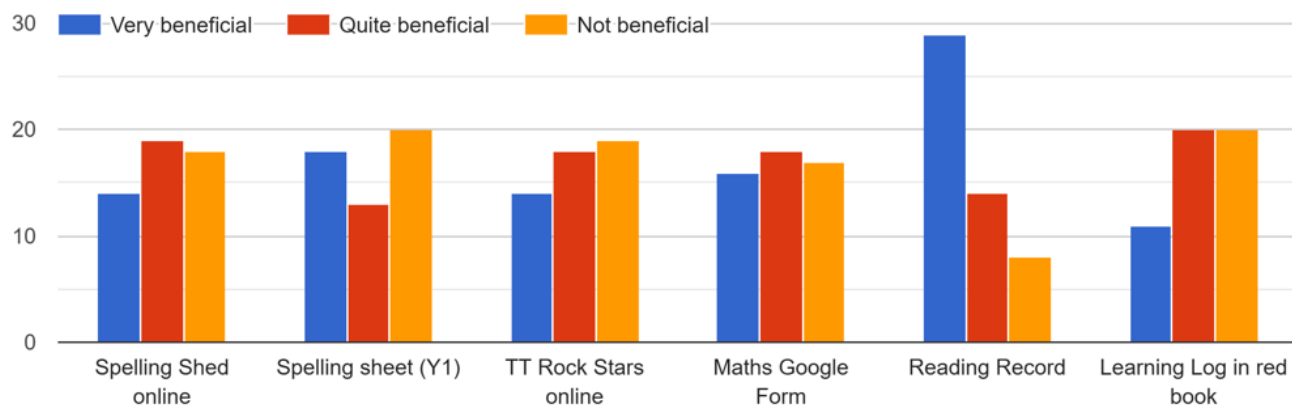


Staff responses:

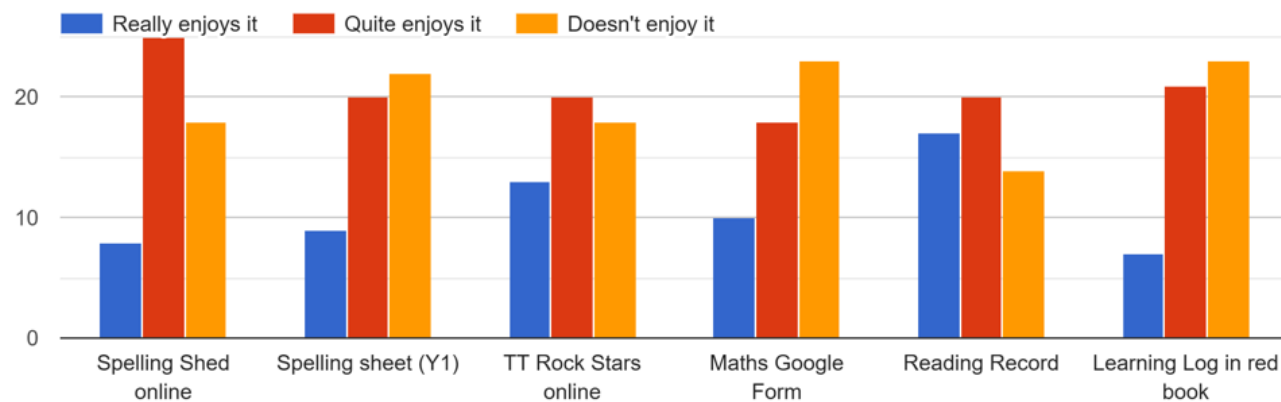


What pieces of homework do you feel are most beneficial to your child?

Parental responses:

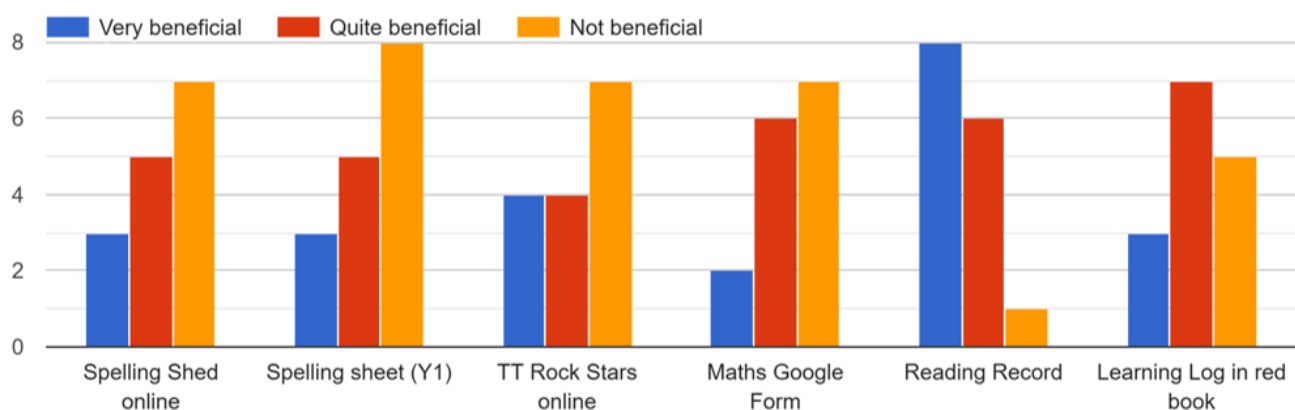


What pieces of homework does your child enjoy doing?



Staff responses:

What pieces of homework do you feel are most beneficial to your pupils?



Further parental feedback identified challenges with home learning being conducted online. This could be due to limited devices, conflicting messages about screen time, promoting patterns of behaviour that could cause risk or harm (e.g. collecting coins) and an over-reliance on an online world. Other parents commented on the difficulty of managing multiple passwords for different applications.

Parents mostly liked the school's stance on home learning being optional and that pressure is not applied if homework is not completed, although some parents found that home learning being optional made it more difficult to encourage at home.

Staff commented on the home learning expectations their own children have experienced in Year 7 and beyond and suggested a need to prepare older primary children for this before they start secondary school.

Staff identified that pupils use of the online platform for TT Rockstars had a positive link to successful outcomes in the Year 4 Multiplication Times table check.

Responding to feedback:

- It is clear that the amount of home learning options provided by the school has been overwhelming and unmanageable for some of our families. Staff agree that limiting the amount of home learning would be beneficial.
- Reading at home is believed to be the most beneficial of tasks and most widely enjoyed by parents and pupils.
- Online learning must be manageable without the need for multiple apps and not replicating something that can be done on paper.
- Home learning should be linked to learning undertaken during the school day, linked to targeted strategies for raising pupil achievement and should not be an add-on.
- School should seek to understand any barriers to completing homework. Pupils who are less likely to have access to a device suitable for learning at home, and/or a suitable space for home learning should have other opportunities to complete their home learning in school.

Thank you for your part in this exercise. We have made adjustments to the homework policy and this is now available on the school website. The key points are listed below:

Policy for Home Learning

The updated policy (attached) includes the aims and intentions for home learning. It also explains how this will be implemented and the impact measures we will take to monitor the effectiveness of home learning:

Reading

- We will continue to provide early reading materials directly related to phonics learning and fluency books for Reading at home from F2 onwards as required. At least 3 reads per week should be recorded in the Home-School Reading Record from F2 to Y4.
- From Year 5, pupils will complete Reading journals in school. These can also be taken home and added to for books that are being read at home.
- We will provide reading books for pupils to borrow and read at home.

Spellings

- In Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6, the weekly spellings that are introduced in class will be sent home on a spelling sheet every Friday. The spellings on this sheet will be from the sequenced curriculum and tested in school the following Friday. Completed spelling sheets should be brought into school on a Wednesday.
- The Spelling Shed online app for home learning will still be available to all year groups.

Maths

- In Year 3 and Year 4, TT Rockstars will be used for pupils to practice times table facts. This should be completed weekly.
- In Year 5 and 6, weekly Google quizzes, set by class teachers, will be accessible through Google classroom. These will be consolidatory of work done in class and provide immediate feedback.

Optional Home Learning Menu

- Children can complete tasks devised by their class teachers. These will be linked to the wider curriculum theme and there will be a day for children to bring in their home learning to share with their class.
- These will be added to the Curriculum Newsletters that are sent to parents on the first Friday of each half term.
- Links to relevant online platforms (e.g. TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed) will be available for those families wishing to use the online version.

Overview of Home Learning by Key Stage

Year Group	Reading / Phonics	Spellings	Maths	Optional Home Learning Menu
Foundation Stage 2	✓ (reading record)			
Year 1 and Year 2	✓ (reading record)	✓ (paper)		✓
Year 3 and Year 4	✓ (reading record)		✓ (TT Rockstars)	✓
Year 5 and Year 6	✓ (reading journal)	✓ (paper)	✓ (Google Form)	✓

Impact of Home Learning

We will of course continue to celebrate children's achievements with their home learning in celebration assemblies. This will include the continuation of Bronze, Silver and Gold Home Learning Awards for completed weeks of Spelling and/or Maths activities in Year 1 to Year 6.

These changes will come into effect from Friday 12th September with the first submission of homework being the following Wednesday 17th September. Homework will continue to be set on Fridays and handed back in on Wednesdays.

Kind regards

Mr Wallis
Headteacher