

Welford-on-Avon Primary School.

Policy on Homework

1 Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

Foundation Stage

Children have word boxes to take home to support learning of key words. We ask that parents listen to their children read at least three times a week. We also believe that parents should read books with their child. Sharing books is extremely valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading. Children's reading books (linked to our Phonics SSP) will be changed in school once a week. Teachers provide regular newsletters containing

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information about what is happening in school and given parents suggestions about how to further children's learning.

Key Stage 1

We ask parents to support their child through home learning. This includes reading daily for about 15 minutes (remember this can include sharing books and reading to your child). The red reading record is used as communication between parents and teachers about the child's reading. Parents are encouraged to write comments in it regularly. Teachers should read and acknowledge these regularly.

In addition, children will be given weekly spellings and a maths activity. Occasionally children are given a 'Talk for Writing' homework or brief task linked to their learning in class. We encourage parents to support children in understanding new vocabulary and to talk regularly about what is happening in school. Children in Key Stage 1 should not be spending more than 20 minutes a night on their homework.

Key Stage 2

At Key Stage 2 homework will include daily independent reading. Children should be writing in their own red reading records and taking responsibility for when they are ready to complete Accelerated Reader quizzes. Children will be given a mental maths activity which can be spread out across the week although teachers will provide guidance to children about how they could manage their workload. Children will receive a weekly spelling homework and will be encouraged to learn or revise a multiplication table each week. In addition, there may be 'Talk for Writing' homework or a brief task linked to their learning in class. Children in Lower Key Stage 2 should spend about 20 minutes a night on their homework and children in Upper Key Stage 2 should spend around 30 minutes a night.

Projects

Occasionally the school may set a whole school project. The aim of these projects is to encourage collaborative learning between children and parents. Children will be given a term to complete projects and they will be celebrated in school assemblies and at open evenings. Children will receive feedback from adults and peers on their projects as well as a certificate of completion.

Effective Feedback on Homework

Homework is always acknowledged and according to the task is either marked or used in class to support learning. Verbal feedback may be given as well as stickers and positive rewards.

5 Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

6 The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do

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their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents to check the home–school diary at least once a week, and to sign it as requested.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher and if they still have concerns to contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents should contact the headteacher first and if not satisfied they should contact the governing body.

7 Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

All parents and pupils are required to sign the schools Acceptable User Policy for internet use.

8 Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire every other year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way in which homework is organised in our school.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or earlier if necessary.

Signed:

Reviewed October 2023

Next Review October 2024

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff, parents and volunteers to share this commitment

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