

Whitby Heath Primary School

Excellence in a Caring Community



Homework Policy

Policy Written	Summer 2020
Reviewed & Agreed by Governors	September 2020
Next Review	September 2022

Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. (goals of education)

'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.'

Homework Policy

Teachers' Standard 4: *Set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired.*

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Autumn Term 2020.

We believe that it is important to build strong links between home and school. We are committed to promoting parental involvement in education so parents will be encouraged to help and support their children with their learning at home.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership with relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from EYFS to Year 6.

While Homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

These allocations include research, spelling and times tables tasks as well as more formal written homework.

Homework Tasks

Listed below, are the outlined 'Key Skills Homework' tasks which will be compulsory to complete each week and the 'Project Homework' which is an optional piece of homework to complete over a half term.

EYFS

Key Skills Homework

- One number based activity set via Seesaw each week
- One English based activity set via Seesaw each week
- Reading 5 times per week (we recommend at least 10 minutes daily in EYFS)

Years 1 and 2 – 15 minutes each task

Key Skills Homework

- Athletics activity set every other week
- One Maths activity set via Seesaw every other week
- One English activity set via Seesaw every week
- Reading 5 times per week (we recommend at least 10 minutes daily in KS1)
- Year 2 – Times Tables Rockstars (children will be completing their times table challenge each week in class)

Years 3 and 4 – 20 minutes each task

Key Skills Homework

- Athletics activity set every other week
- One Maths activity set via Seesaw every other week
- One English activity set via Seesaw every week
- Reading 5 times per week (we recommend at least 15 minutes daily in lower KS2)
- Times Tables Rockstars (children will be completing their times table challenge each week in class)

Years 5 and 6 – 30 minutes each task

Key Skills Homework

- Athletics activity set every other week
- One Maths activity set via Seesaw every other week
- One English activity set via Seesaw every week
- Reading 5 times per week (we recommend at least 20 minutes daily in upper KS2)
- Times Tables Rockstars (children will be completing their times table challenge each week in class)

All year groups

Project Homework

The 'Project Homework' will link to the current theme learning in each class. This homework is optional. The Project Homework can be a creative project which can be completed in any form. Children will be given the outlined project theme by their class teachers and will have the half term to complete it. All projects, which have been completed, will be shared in class at the end of the half term.

Pupils with special educational needs

We set Homework tasks for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

Homework Timetable

- In the EYFS and Key Stages 1 & 2, reading is a fundamental part of learning and as such, children should be regularly reading at home to parents and answering questions to demonstrate their understanding. Class teachers should ensure children change their reading books at least weekly to enable them to do this.
- Key Skills Homework will be set or sent home weekly on a Friday, to be completed by the following Tuesday. In Key Stages 1 and 2, Athletics and Maths tasks (set on Seesaw) will be set and completed on alternate weeks.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
Regular communication between teacher and parents is to be encouraged through the Home School Diary in which they can both write.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the cohort/Phase.
- To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils & parents.
- To provide paper copies of any online tasks which are set if required by the parents.

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To sign a home school agreement that outlines homework expectations.
- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

At Whitby Heath Primary School, we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much.

However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to

become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Whitby Heath Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

Marking

Staff should mark any homework that is returned by pupils (either online or in paper form). This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils. If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work. If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.

It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time. Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or target group teacher.

IMPACT

This policy will ensure that a sensible approach will be taken by all and that learners will benefit through the co-operation of home and school by extending learning beyond the school day where it is relevant and appropriate.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in the Autumn Term 2022.