



Homework ethos at Weetwood Primary School.

We believe that important gains can be made to children's learning through extending work beyond the classroom. Homework can link home and school in a meaningful way and help parents / carers become actively involved in their children's learning.

What are the aims of this policy?

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure expectations regarding homework are manageable and appropriate for all children, including those who are gifted and talented and those with special educational needs.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations of homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding.
- To provide opportunities for parents/carers and children to work together.
- To develop a home-school partnership.
- To allow parents/carers to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming confident and independent learners during their time at school and throughout their adult life.

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents/carers with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure that this policy is consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents/carers through information and guidance about homework and the curriculum.
- To monitor and evaluate whole school and individual subject setting and assessment.

What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of each individual child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework that they have been given.
- To give feedback, and where appropriate, to mark homework.
- To be available to talk to parents/carers and children about homework.
- To inform parents / carers if there is a problem regarding homework.

What is the role of the parent / carer?

- To support the child in completing their homework.
- To ensure that the child completes their homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete their homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to do their homework.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure that they understand the tasks they are set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

How much homework?

Children need to have the opportunity to follow a wide range of interests outside school. Homework should not prevent them from being able to do this.

The amount and complexity of homework will gradually increase from Reception to Year 6. Individual teachers will vary in their approach, although the older the children, the more formal the guide-lines become. Children from Year 4 onwards use a homework diary.

With all children where learning is involved (e.g. spelling and times tables) 'little and often' is the best method. Fifteen minutes per evening would seem appropriate. Again, reading practice is best when it is considered a pleasurable activity by both child and adult. About ten minutes each evening would be considered sufficient. However, in the Early Years, please practice only if the child is in the mood and not too tired.

As children get older, in Key Stage 2, they may be asked to complete a worksheet or writing task. By the time the children are in Year 6 they may be asked to do this up to three times per week. Children will be expected to spend a maximum of 45 minutes on this type of task. As well as set homework tasks, children might be asked to finish off work

that has not been completed in class time. Teachers will ensure there is balance between both types of task.

What Homework?

- Reception** Flashcards. Reading with / to adults. Additional activities as and when appropriate.
- Year 1** Reading. Spellings. Topic related activities when appropriate.
- Year 2** Reading. Spellings. Topic related activities when appropriate.
- Year 3** Reading. Spellings. Times tables. One piece of varied homework each week.
- Year 4** Reading. Spellings. Times tables. One homework task each week, either Maths, Literacy or research topic.
- Year 5** Reading. Spellings. Times tables. Two activities / tasks.
- Year 6** Reading. Spelling. Times tables. Three regular and specific tasks. Finishing off class work.

How can parents / carers help?

Reading.

Children need to read regularly with and to adults, in a relaxed environment. As children become more able readers, adult interest is still important. Parents/carers can encourage their children's reading through discussion and questioning. Adults should try and extend their children's reading through books not given in school and other printed materials, such as newspapers, comics and magazines. Parents/carers should encourage use of the library and on-line sources of information.

Spellings and Timetables.

Children need to be encouraged to share their learning. Parents/carers should regularly test children, orally and in written form, and provide feedback.

Specific homework tasks.

Where children have specific tasks for homework, parents/carers should feel free to get involved.

While it is important that the children do the work themselves, homework offers the opportunity for a child to be given one-to-one support that is not always available in school.

Even if the child is capable of doing their homework without any support, it is important that the child gets the opportunity to discuss their work and share ideas. Where adults feel less confident about supporting their child with their homework, or they feel their knowledge is lacking or out of date, they should discuss this with the class teacher and assistance will be provided.

Topic Work

Parents/carers will be informed of the class topics via the curriculum newsletter which is issued termly. Parents/carers can then assist their children by following up any class work at home. This can be done through joint research, going on visits, watching TV programmes, saving any relevant newspaper or magazine articles, providing books and encouraging independent research e.g. via the internet.

What if there are any problems?

If there is any cause for concern at home with regards to homework, for example if a child is getting distressed or feels unable to complete their work, contact the class teacher to arrange a meeting to have an informal discussion. If there are still problems a meeting with the head teacher can be arranged.

If the school has any concerns about a child's homework then the class or head teacher will contact home.

Any queries or concerns will be dealt with as quickly as possible to ensure swift resolution.

Homework and Transition to High School

At Weetwood our approach to homework recognises the importance of developing organisational and study skills in preparation for the transition to secondary school. It is important that homework is used as a tool to facilitate the smooth transition of pupils, as they move onto the next stage of their education.

When your child starts high school we will liaise with secondary school Heads of Year and transition managers, so that there is continuity.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

We believe that all children should be encouraged to maximise their potential or personal achievements, regardless of gender, ethnicity and language, disability or social circumstances. We aim to set homework that takes individual differences into account and that will provide appropriate challenge for all children, including those with special educational needs or special gifts and talents.