



# Homework Policy

## Rationale

Homework is seen as one way in which pupil achievement can be raised. The benefits of doing homework must be instilled at an early age in all pupils, so that independent home study becomes routine.

## Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Give every pupil the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- Instil in all pupils the importance of life-long learning.
- Promote a responsibility for learning within each pupil.
- 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 in 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.
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Maths and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

## 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:

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
- Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

## **Examples of homework that may be expected:**

Daily Reading - in FS & Infants this must be to an adult. Juniors should be a mix. It is also important to try and incorporate talking to your child into daily reading. For example asking questions about what is happening or going to happen. Talking about how characters may be feeling and how we know this using the text.

Frequent spelling practice (preferably daily) - either zappers or otherwise.

Times tables practice (preferably daily)

Topic-related homework. This will be communicated before the start of a new topic/theme and usually before a holiday, in order that the holiday may be used to complete the homework task. The task itself may take different forms, eg finding resources or putting together a presentation.

Homework may also take the form of extending or reinforcing learning that has taken place in school, for example, additional Maths and Literacy. This may well be personalised for the child.

## **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.

## **Role of the Class Teacher**

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- 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 by use of House Points.

## **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.

## Role of Parents/Carers

- 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 William Levick 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. William Levick 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.

## General

Wherever possible staff should try to mark, and will certainly acknowledge, any homework that is returned by pupils. 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/acknowledging 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. However, 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 school 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.

- Parents / carers should make contact with their child's class teacher to discuss homework if they want more or less than the given amount. Teachers will respond to reasonable wishes if it is in the best interests of the child, provided it is also agreed by the Head Teacher.
- If homework is not completed on a regular basis, teachers may cease to provide homework, in consultation with the Head Teacher. Parents / carers would be informed of this decision.