



WOODLANDS
PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Homework policy

July 2022

July 2024

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Summer Term 2022.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do at home to support work completed in school.
- 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 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.
- 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 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 but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
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 the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous, 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

Homework Tasks

Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development. Listed below is the minimum requirement for homework at Woodlands Primary School. This is by no means an exhaustive list, and may be supplemented with additional tasks or activities depending on the child, and is therefore open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis.

Weekly Homework (Given out on Friday to be returned by the following Thursday)
Reading daily – school reading scheme book and /or library book. Parents to comment , sign and date children's reading diary
Spellings
Mathematics
Half Termly Homework (Project to be set each half term to last a number of weeks)
A project based on a curriculum theme given out after the introduction of the class topic and completed before the end of the half term.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a pre-school parents meeting or at an open evening if possible.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- To set homework that takes equal 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 appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

Children are actively encouraged to complete their homework and hand it back to the teacher within the given time frame. Children that always complete their homework are commended in our celebration assemblies. These children are entered into a half termly draw to have the opportunity to earn rewards and privileges such as certificates, badges, additional social time and to eat lunch with the Senior Leadership Team.

If children do not complete their homework regularly, parents will be invited in to discuss why they are not fulfilling the promise, that was agreed when they signed the Home/School Agreement and a solution will be sought to ensure children can complete homework moving forwards.

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 Woodlands 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. Woodlands 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 keep a record of any homework that is completed by pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also reiterate the message, that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Recording returned homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and staff will give 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 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.**
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.