



Whitehead

Primary School
& Nursery Unit

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

Homework

Last Review	November 2023	S. Kidd
Next Review	November 2026	S. Kidd

Aims of this Policy

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that staff, children and parents have a clear understanding regarding homework expectations.
- To ensure that staff, children and parents are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

The Purpose of Homework

In order that our pupils can achieve their full potential we recognise the importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. The purpose of homework is to:

- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, allowing parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- Consolidate and reinforce basic skills, particularly in literacy and numeracy, improving their self-confidence, progress and attainment.
- Encourage the children to develop the skills and self-discipline needed to work independently, developing good work habits for the future.

The Role of School

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure that this policy is consistently followed by all members of staff.
- To ensure that this policy is reviewed on at least a 3 yearly basis.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that it is:

- Based on clear learning intentions.
- Differentiated and appropriate to the needs of the children.
- Varied, purposeful and links directly to the learning and teaching in the classroom.
- Clearly explained so that children understand the homework they have been given.
- Marked promptly, providing clear guidance as to how a child could improve their homework but equally ensuring that homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.

Teachers will also:

- Clearly outline homework expectations at the Curriculum evening in September.
- Send out homework planners as paper copies. Year 7 will also receive planners on Seesaw.
- Send out homework as hard copies which will then be completed in homework books as provided by the teacher.

- Be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- Contact parents if homework is not completed at all or to a satisfactory standard.
- Discuss homework with parents at 'Parent/Teacher Consultations' in October and February.
- Monitor the impact of homework on the children's attainment, commenting on homework performance in the 'End of Year Report'.

Parents can help support their children by:

- Creating a positive environment, making it clear that they value homework and explaining how it can help learning.
- Providing a suitable place for children to complete their homework.
- Ensuring that children attempt homework.
- Being actively involved, working alongside their children, providing encouragement and support as appropriate.
- Praising their children when homework is complete and ensuring that it is signed.
- Contacting the teacher if they have any concerns regarding homework.

Children should:

- Undertake homework promptly and with a positive attitude.
- Put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- Take pride in their presentation, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
- Be organised, to ensure that homework is completed on time.
- Take advice from their teacher regarding how to improve homework.

Key Aspects of Homework

When will homework be set?

- Homework will begin in the first full week of September.
- No homework will be set in the last full/partial week of a term, ie at Christmas, Easter & June.
- Go Wild, Get Active homework will be set for the last two full weeks of June (with the exception of Y6). This homework will encourage the children to be outside and to be active. It will not include the traditional aspects of homework such as spellings, reading etc.

Spellings

- All children will use the technique of 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' in order to learn their spellings.

Mental Maths

- Children will complete Mental Maths activities from Y4 – Y7.
- From time to time there may be questions that the children encounter in their mental maths which are based on concepts which haven't been taught in class. The teacher will identify such questions and the children will record on their planners that they are not required to attempt this question.

Written Homework

- Y1 – Y3 children will have 2 written homeworks per week
- Y4 children will have 3 written homeworks per week
- Y5 – Y7 children will have 4 written homeworks per week

Research

- Y4 & Y5 will begin elements of research when they are asked to discover facts about a particular topic.
- This will progress in Y6 when children complete a very structured research project on the Vikings, which will focus on the teaching of research skills. The project will be completed both in school and at home.
- Y7 will further develop these skills and encourage greater independent work through their project based on their residential trip. Which again will be completed both in school and at home.

Rewards

- Y1 – Y3 will use stampers and stickers to reward good homework.
- Y4 – Y7 will use 'A Night Off' written homework as an incentive for children.
- In order to achieve a night off numeracy for example, Y4 must achieve 3A*, Y5 – 4A* & Y6/Y7 – 5A* in numeracy. The same is true for literacy.

How long should homework take?

- The times set out below indicate how long it should take children to complete all aspects of homework (including reading)
- The times below are set as a guideline in that we wouldn't expect children to complete homework for any longer than this (except when they working towards AQE in Y6 & Y7).
- Teachers will always set activities which consolidate the work that has been completed in class however some children will always complete work quicker than others. If you find that your child is regularly taking much longer to complete homework please contact their teacher.

- Y1 & Y2 20 minutes
- Y3 30 minutes
- Y4 & Y5 30 - 40 minutes
- Y6 & Y7 40 - 50 minutes

Homework from Y1 – Y7

Appendices 1-7 contain a parental guide to homework for each year group.

Monitoring and Evaluating

Monitoring and evaluating are ongoing and integral parts of the learning and teaching in our school and are the responsibility of all members of staff. Teachers in each year group work together to plan the homework programme. The principal, leadership team and relevant curriculum leaders will monitor the content to ensure progression and differentiation. The homework policy will be reviewed on at least a 3 yearly basis.

This homework policy has been reviewed and updated after consultation with staff, governors, parents and pupils.