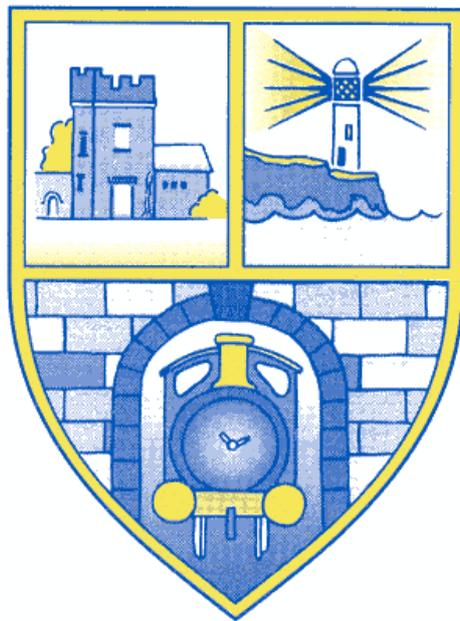


Whitehead Primary School and Nursery Unit

“Learning & Growing Together”



Homework Policy

The purpose of homework

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. By setting regular homework tasks for children we aim to:

- Encourage and develop an effective partnership between school, parents and children - providing parents an opportunity to take part in their children's education
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Extend school learning, for example through additional reading or investigation
- Encourage children as they move through the school to develop the skills, confidence and self discipline needed to work independently, and so prepare them for secondary school

The amount and type of homework appropriate at different stages

Regular homework is important, as it gives children the opportunity to practise at home the tasks covered in class and helps the children work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning,

For children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, the emphasis of homework is on developing a partnership with parents and involving them actively in their children's learning. The homework at this stage will mainly consist of short activities such as reading together, simple games, learning spellings, number facts and short written activities. Homework time also provides an opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

In Key Stage 2, homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which are age appropriate, to study on their own. By the time children reach Year 7, their homework programme will cover a wider range of tasks and curriculum content. We would ask parents to continue to provide encouragement and support when needed for written tasks and to work with their children on learning tasks such as spelling, tables, mental maths and reading activities.

Clear instructions will be given for each homework activity.

- Y1 -The monthly homework planner outlines homework activities and learning intentions and also provides information on how to help your child at home. Reading labels are detailed and provide guidance on how to help with reading. At the beginning a 'Handy Hints' sheet is sent home.

- Y2 - Homework sheet with weekly homework guidance.
- Y3 - Homework diary – children write out spellings, number facts and reading pages each day in their diary. In addition a homework planner outlines the homework for the week.
- Y4–Y7 - Homework planner for the week given out on 1st day of school week.

Listed below is a guideline to the tasks and time expected to be spent on homework tasks in each year group.

Foundation Stage			
Year 1	Reading Literacy Activity Numeracy Activity Monthly Homework Planner	2 nights plus extra reading and extension books. 1 night per week 1 night per week Extra tips, phonic activities and guidance provided on planner	Homework Preparation 15 minutes
Year 2	Reading Written activity Homework guidance sheet at the beginning of the week.	2 guided/independent reading books per week plus extra reading and extension books. 1 reading activity, 1 literacy and 1 numeracy plus practical activities. Homework sheet provides a variety of suggested oral games- numeracy/ phonics Look, cover, write, check 1 word per week (term 2+3) Term 3 separate spelling book – medial vowels (1 list per week)	Homework Preparation 15/20 Minutes
Key Stage 1			
Year 3	Reading Written Activity Spellings Number facts Homework guidance sheet sent home at beginning of year	4 nights - core readers 2 literacy /numeracy tasks 5/6 per night plus high frequency words Number bonds Homework planner provides guidance for week ahead.	Homework Preparation 30 Minutes Independent readers- extension readers in folder sent home
Year 4	Reading Written Activity	4 nights per week 2 numeracy, 1 literacy and 1 topic based activity	Homework Preparation 30-45 Minutes

	Spellings Tables Mental Maths Homework guidance sheet sent home at beginning of year	3 sets of 4 per week + revise Thursday 3 nights per week + revise Thursday 4 nights per week	Homework planner for the week given out on Monday
--	---	--	---

Key Stage 2			
Year 5	Reading Written Activity Spellings Tables Mental Maths Homework guidance sheet sent home at beginning of year	4 nights per week 2 numeracy 2 literacy / topic based activities 3 sets of 4/5 per week + revise Thursday 3 nights per week + revise Thursday 4 nights per week	Homework Preparation 45 - 50 Minutes Homework planner for the week given out on Monday. Spellings copied into diary.
Year 6	Reading Written Activity Spellings Number Facts Mental Maths Homework guidance sheet sent home at beginning of year	4 nights per week 2 numeracy, 2 literacy Occasional project work 3 sets of 5/7 per week + revise Thursday 3 nights per week + revise Thursday 4 nights per week <u>Term 3:</u> Weekend Lit/Num	Homework Preparation 50 - 60 Minutes Homework planner for the week given out on Monday.
Year 7	Reading Written Activity Spellings Number Facts Mental Maths Homework guidance sheet sent home at beginning of year	4 nights per week (Term 2+3) Term 1 4 numeracy, 4 literacy + weekend literacy + numeracy Term 2+3 4 written tasks per week - including literacy/numeracy/project/practical 3 sets of 4-7 per week + revise Thursday 3 nights per week + revise Thursday 4 nights per week	Homework Preparation 50 - 60 minutes Homework planner for the week given out on Monday

- The tasks set will usually complement or extend work that the children have done in school. It is expected that the tasks children complete at home will be of the same standard as they produce in school.
- Homework activities will be differentiated to meet children's individual needs, including any special educational needs.
- Numeracy activities should be completed in pencil.
- Literacy activities should be completed in a neat handwriting style using pencil or, in Y7, a blue handwriting pen.
- Homework will be marked against the learning intention, in line with the school's marking policy with written or oral feedback given to the children when appropriate.
- In KS2 homeworks that have been carefully completed will be awarded an A*
- A set number of A*s will earn the child a free homework.
- If a child does not understand a task, parents should encourage their child to ask the teacher for further guidance.
- Parents are encouraged to discuss the school's expectations and their children's attitudes to homework at parental interviews. Parents should contact the teacher or the principal at any time during the year, if concerned about homework or any other aspect of their child's progress.
- **Parents are asked to sign the completed homework.**

Monitoring and Evaluating

Monitoring and evaluating are 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 and curriculum leaders will monitor the content to ensure progression and differentiation.

This will be achieved through:

- review by the principal and co-ordinators of year group planning for homework
- literacy and numeracy curriculum leaders monitoring progress through regular collection of a cross-section of homework workbooks
- formal and informal discussions with staff
- discussions with children

The evidence, which is gathered through these monitoring procedures, will be evaluated regularly in order to inform future planning for homework.

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

Last reviewed: August 2018

Next review: August 2019