

St Michael's C of E Primary School, Winterbourne

Learn ~ Care ~ Enjoy

Homework - Policy Statement

This school aims to be a learning community in which all:

- . achieve their full potential
- . are motivated to work independently and collaboratively
- . take initiative and responsibility
- . show respect and consideration for others and their environment

Rationale

Setting homework is a statutory duty of schools although it is not compulsory at primary age for children to complete. However, homework has the potential to raise standards, extend coverage of the curriculum, allow more effective use to be made of lesson times and improve pupils' study skills and attitudes to learning.

Aim

We want to develop the "whole" individual and, as part of this, children should undertake relevant and appropriate homework.

Purposes of Homework

To:

- deepen and embed learning from work covered in class
- practise or consolidate basic knowledge and skills.
- develop pupils' study skills and personal organization
- develop attitudes of perseverance, self-discipline and initiative
- develop pupils' sense of responsibility
- foster the partnership between parents and the teacher in relation to the child's learning.
- prepare pupils for homework at secondary school.

Broad Guidelines

- 1 Homework should be an integral part of curriculum planning i.e. relevant to learning and therefore homework tasks should be:
 - matched to children's abilities and needs
 - appropriate to the age of the children
 - realistic in amount
 - marked, with feedback given to pupils

The class teacher is responsible for setting homework and monitoring the standard of

work completed.

- 2 Parents will be informed about the type, timing or frequency of homework through the Class newsletter and general homework statements

Government guidelines are:

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

Older children are expected to take increasing personal responsibility for their homework.

Year 6 children should be experiencing a level of demand, which will help prepare them for secondary school. Year 6 children, at some point, will have homework focused on revising the whole of the primary curriculum in preparation for end of year tests.

Parents will be asked to ensure that their children complete and return their homework on time.

Parents should be given information about the homework to help them to assist their child

- 3 Homework will be focused on reading, spellings and mathematics. These are fundamental to accessing the rest of the curriculum.

Parents play a crucial part in helping their child to memorise, rapidly recall and manipulate basic number facts and spellings. Parents are also instrumental in developing key reading skills and knowledge; helping their child to read frequent words; and recognise frequent sounds and word strings. Only they can rehearse this learning regularly enough.

It is recognised that without this knowledge and these skills children will not succeed in the curriculum.

It is also recognised that parents have a huge impact on the early years of a child's education.

All homework will be set on a Monday for completion by the end of the week. The children will be given:

- A Mathematics task
- A spelling list
- A timestables focus

The children are issued with a Homework log which parents are expected to sign on completion of any homework task. The log is monitored regularly by the class teacher.

Reading

Reading is vital to all learning in school throughout a child's education. Therefore homework will be set, throughout the school, where every child will be engaged in some reading activity appropriate to their age eg listening to books, telling stories from

picture books, learning words, reading sections from books, scheduled reading time for personal pleasure/interest, reading silently or to someone else.

Reading material can be directed by the teacher or it may be independently chosen.

Mathematics

The mathematical knowledge and skills learnt at primary school will be used throughout life. To successfully access the curriculum, all children will need to memorise number facts that can be rapidly recalled and manipulated. Counting, number bonds and times tables are three of the most important areas. Also children need to rehearse names of shapes, and improve familiarity with mathematical concepts such as perimeter and measure. Home learning will greatly aid children's learning in these areas.

Spellings

Committing spellings to memory can be greatly enhanced and accelerated by reinforcement at home. Improved recall and familiarity with spellings, increases fluency and accuracy of writing.

It is expected that spellings are learnt at home to reinforce weekly focused teaching. They may not necessarily be tested but will be used in writing.

In addition to learning spellings and multiplication tables or reading the next few pages of their reading book, homework could be;

- learning/reinforcing sounds or words through games and activities
- reading non-fiction books
- online learning set by the class teacher
- maths games or puzzles
- practical activities
- worksheets, extension activities or investigations
- topic based to either extend what is happening in class, or to prepare for a forthcoming session
- working on specific projects and topics for presentation or to share in school.
- copying up some corrected work into a finished (published) format
- using the library or other sources for information
- using toys and other items at home to carry out investigations
- carrying out surveys/investigations at home
- memorising poems and songs
- watching relevant and appropriate television programmes

4 Not every child will be able, for a wide variety of reasons, to undertake successfully the homework tasks set.

If difficulties arise parents should be encouraged to contact the class teacher as soon as possible. Where children do not have access to the internet at home, the class teacher should be made aware and opportunities will be given for those children to complete the tasks during school hours.

Likewise, teachers should ensure that parents are aware of any problems arising with homework.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

When planning homework activities, teachers will have due regard to the school's Inclusion, Race Equality and Equal Opportunities Policies.

Conclusion

Homework can have an important effect on children's learning. This will have most impact when homework supports and extends the work done in class, is appropriate to the age and ability of the children, and when parents are involved in their children's learning.

Drawn up by staff: Feb - May 1997

Reviewed: March 1998

Consultation with parents: March/April 1998

Amended and agreed by Governors: May 1998

Reviewed Dec 1999

Reviewed March 2001

Reviewed by staff April 2003

Reviewed by Staff March 2009

Reviewed by staff January 2011

Reviewed by staff May 2014

10 things you can do to help your child learn

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
 - As a parent, you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.
 - Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "You're clever!"
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible. Early readers need to read words with fluency and intonation, advanced readers also need to understand and discuss their reading.
 - The Government is encouraging parents to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves for at least 20 minutes a day.
 - Older children still need to read regularly. Also talking to them about the book and discussing the meaning of words and discussing your own reading encourages and deepens interest and knowledge of reading.
3. Encourage children to observe and talk about their surroundings.
 - Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.
4. Make use of your local library.
 - Look out for special events and services for children.
5. Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting.
 - Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.
6. If your children like watching television, watch it with them sometimes and encourage them to talk about what they have seen. They will get more out of the experience.
7. Set time aside to do "homework" activities with young children making it part of the daily routine.
8. Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for children to do homework (or help them to get to other places where homework can be done).
9. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
10. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.