



# HOMEWORK POLICY

## **Mission Statement**

Through a passion for learning rooted in mutual respect and warm, honest relationships our school community provides a platform for success for all.

Woodlands Park Primary School re-reviewed this policy: September '21

This policy will be formally reviewed bi-annually

# Woodlands Park Primary School

## Introduction

At Woodlands Park Primary School we believe that a homework programme helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their child's education.

## Parent Views

As part of the review of this policy, the school sent a questionnaire to parents in December 2018. Over 100 families completed the questionnaire and their responses are summarised at the end of the policy.

89% of parents were in favour of their children completing homework challenges at home. However, parental responses covered a huge spectrum, including the comments below:

'It's a difficult balance to ensure family time, outside time and rest but a small amount of homework each week is important.'

'The evidence shows that the difference in achievement between primary schools who set work, and those who don't is small. We therefore see no reason for doing homework for academic attainment. As parents, we chose instead to support our children's general education by encouraging their love of learning, thinking, exploring and communicating whenever we can.'

This policy has been updated by incorporating the views collated from our parent questionnaires.

## Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment;
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences;
- Ensure homework is valued, marked and celebrated;
- Reinforce learning in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning;
- Develop lifelong learning skills, eg questioning, researching;
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for transfer to secondary school.

## Recommended Time Allocation

Normally, homework challenges are set once a week with a week given for completion. Homework activities, on average, should take approximately 1 hour to complete across the school. This does not include reading.

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it create stress within the pupil's family.

## Reading at Home

In addition to spending approximately an hour on their homework challenges each week, we expect all of our children to be supported with their reading at home. 52% of parents who took part in the review of this policy read at home every day with their child and a further 27% read at home 5-6 times a week.

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As a school, we recognise the importance of reading at home so that pupils can develop a love of reading and have the time to make progress in this core area of the curriculum. However, we also recognise the importance of being actively involved in out of school activities that can inhibit the amount of time or energy needed to read at home.

We therefore expect our children to read their book from school at home at least 5 times a week for at least 10 minutes. In addition, you might want to share a book with your child at home and develop and encourage a wider reading base (eg newspapers, websites, leaflets etc...)

### Homework During Holidays

Homework is **not** given during the holidays as we see this as being an opportunity for quality family time together. The only exception could possibly be the Easter Holidays for Year 6 pupils in preparation for their end of year assessments ready for their transition to secondary school.

### Accessing Homework Challenges

Homework is uploaded onto the School's website every Friday for reference. Additionally, as a school, we will endeavour to support parents to understand some of the more technical aspects of a homework challenge, eg methods in maths or vocabulary in grammar. The school encourages parents to contact the class teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

In Years 5 and 6, Micosoft Teams will be used as the platform to distribute, receive and mark homework.

### Foundation Stage Homework

Weekly Logs give an overview of the learning which has been carried out in school during the previous week and outlines future learning. Ideas for supporting children in their learning at home are given.

Reading books, library books and tricky word book marks are sent home on a regular basis.

Parents are given opportunities on a weekly basis to comment using post-it-notes in the children's reading folders on home learning. These are shared as 'wow' moments daily in the class.

Each child has a home learning book.

### Year 1 & 2 Homework

A weekly newsletter gives a general overview of what is happening in Key Stage One. Home learning activities for English, Maths and Topic work are suggested. There is no expectation that the children will complete them all but we expect all children to spend approximately 1 hour on homework challenges. The activities suggested are open ended enabling parents to work with the children at a level and pace they feel comfortable with.

Home learning books are sent home every week. Examples of excellent work and effort is celebrated in school and are displayed in class as appropriate, as part of the class' working walls. Parents are given opportunity to feedback on home learning on the home learning sheet or in the home learning books.

Reading books are changed weekly and parents are asked to keep a record of their child's reading with any comments in the child's Home Learning book.

### Year 3 & 4

A weekly sheet gives a general overview of learning in class and activities the children have been involved in. Each week two children are involved in writing this sheet.

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The homework is set in a three weekly cycle, English for one week, Maths for the next and finally a Topic homework is given. A selection of tasks is set for the children to pick from. Guidance is given to parents on how to adapt activities for the ability of their child. There is no expectation that the children will complete them all but we expect all children to spend approximately 1 hour on homework challenges.

The spellings for each group, within the key stage are sent home on the back of each week's homework and ideas are given to help the children learn the spelling rule.

Ideas for learning times tables are given on a weekly basis.

Examples of home learning are displayed in the classroom. Home learning books are sent home every other week.

### **Year 5 & 6**

In Years 5 and 6, Microsoft Teams will be used as the platform to distribute, receive and mark homework.

The homework is set in a three weekly cycle, English for one week, Maths for the next and finally a topic homework is given. A selection of tasks is set for the children to pick from. Guidance is given to parents on how to adapt activities for the ability of their child. There is no expectation that the children will complete them all but we expect all children to spend approximately 1 hour on homework challenges.

A spelling list is sent home at the beginning of each half term and each week the children are given optional spelling activities to complete. The children are also encouraged to have a go at the optional mental maths task.

Examples of home learning are displayed in the classroom. Homework books are sent home every other week.

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### Homework Questionnaire – Summary of Parent Feedback

Dear Parents

Thank you to those of you who were able to contribute to our homework policy review. Your views have been collated and are summarised below:

#### **Do you think your child should be given homework?**

89% Yes, 11% No

#### **How much time do you think children should spend on homework every week?**

Average response was approximately 1 hour per week for homework activities. Reading time would be on top of this.

#### **What homework activities do you think are valuable to support your child's learning?**

Range of responses from parents.

Most frequent response related consolidating learning in the core areas of reading, writing and maths.

Additional responses related to applying skills learnt in school to new learning and further research.

A number of parents stated the need to make homework fun.

#### **What homework activities do you think are less valuable?**

The main themes from parents was that they would like the school to limit homework that:

- Takes too long to complete.
- Doesn't need to be handed in to school (child less motivated).
- Is research based.
- Lengthy craft activities that the child can't complete independently.

#### **How many times a week do you think children should read at home?**

- Every day – 52%
- 5-6 times a week - 27%
- 3-4 times a week – 20%
- 1-2 times a week – 2%

#### **My child usually enjoys their homework...**

|             |               |                 |            |               |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| Always – 9% | Usually – 48% | Sometimes – 36% | Never – 7% | Not Sure - 0% |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|

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### I know how to support my child with their homework...

|              |               |                 |            |               |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| Always – 18% | Usually – 64% | Sometimes – 15% | Never – 3% | Not Sure – 0% |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|

### Homework causes tension at home...

|             |               |                 |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Always – 6% | Usually – 12% | Sometimes – 45% | Never – 36% | Not Sure – 1% |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|

### My child finds the level of challenge with their homework...

|               |                   |               |               |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Too hard – 1% | About right – 90% | Too Easy – 6% | Not sure – 3% |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|

### Additional comments:

The following themes emerged from responses:

- Need to increase time so that families have more than just the weekend to complete.
- Sometimes homework isn't marked frequently which can reduce motivation.
- Parents sometimes feel that they need more support with understanding methods (eg in maths) and the terminology (eg in grammar).