



Woodside Primary School and Nursery

Care - Aspire - Achieve

Homework Policy

Policy Title:	Homework Policy
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Revision no:	5
Date:	2.10.21
Signed by Chair of Governors:	
To be reviewed:	October 2023

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Aims

- To raise standards of attainment across the curriculum.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding in the areas of our 'golden core' for English and Mathematics.
- To encourage independent learning.
- To extend the curriculum into the home and beyond.
- To encourage use of a wide range of resources available outside school.
- To prepare pupils for their next stage of schooling.
- To involve parents in the education of their children.

At Woodside we believe that homework is an integral part of the curriculum which fosters the home school partnership and ultimately impacts on raising attainment.

Types of homework tasks change as children progress through school. Reading is at the heart of our curriculum therefore it is paramount throughout the school and encouraged and expected at home. In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 reading will be a large part of homework activities. By the time children reach Year 6 their homework programme will cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content which will require the skills of reading. The school will ensure that parents are informed as to how best to help their children using the resources that are available outside school. This is also available in the Home/School Agreement.

Expectations

Expectations from pupils and parents will vary according to the year group but general principles apply to all aspects of homework.

1. High expectations must be emphasised.
2. Daily reading.
3. Neat and tidy presentation should be encouraged at all times (in line with the school's presentation policy).
4. When homework is untidy, children should be given feedback on how to improve and offered the opportunity to repeat the piece of work.
5. Parents should be involved in the homework process wherever possible. School will endeavour to encourage this involvement in the following ways:
 - Opportunities to communicate on homework tasks using the Pupil Planner.
 - Informal discussion with class teacher
 - Curriculum Information shared on the school website 'Parents - Year Group Pages'.
 - Other guidance from school via hand-outs/ parent workshops/ curriculum newsletters, parent mail etc.
6. Teachers to monitor explanations of homework.
7. Review how often homework is coming in with parents/carers at parents' evenings, end of year reports or more often if required.

Homework tasks should be:

- Appropriate to the ability of the child.
- Have a very clear focus and time-guideline.
- Give plenty of opportunities to succeed.
- Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary.
- Be varied and not purely written assignments.
- Relevant to work carried out in school.
- Identified in weekly planning.

HOMEWORK TASKS

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

- All children encouraged to take care of and to handle books that they borrow in an appropriate way.
- Daily reading with parents and carers for periods of 5-10 minutes is encouraged.
- Weekly library for all children to provide breadth of reading.
- Each Reception child takes home a selection of key vocabulary
- Parents/carers encouraged to support their children with reading and writing targets via homework tasks.
- Children encouraged to ask parents about the day of the week, the new month, the sequence of days and seasons.
- Children encouraged to look for number in the environment, find out their telephone numbers, house number, birth date.
- Parents asked to support with Mathematics targets through practical activities and real life experiences.
- Children asked to bring objects, materials, items of interest for 'show and tell' sessions or display relating to topic.

KEY STAGE 1 (Years 1 – 2)

- Homework should be set on Friday, to be returned on Wednesday.
- Reading with parents/carers for periods of at least 10 minutes daily is expected. A variety of texts may be used, e.g. public library books, leaflets/ flyer etc. in addition to books provided by school.
- The appropriate use and care of books is encouraged.
- Topic related work e.g. a written piece will be recorded in an A4 Homework Book.
- Practical maths activities set to practise and consolidate aspects of Mathematics that have been covered in school with an emphasis on mental maths.
- Parents asked to support through practical activities
- 2x, 5x, 10x times-tables and x3, x4 and x8 tables depending on the development stage of the child.
- Homework expectations and websites/apps to support homework are on the school website in 'Our Learning – Year Group Pages'
- Information and objects gathered for discussions and display to launch new topic work throughout termly.
- Children provided with a 'Family Project' related to current topic.

LOWER KEY STAGE 2 (Years 3 - 4)

- Homework should be set on Friday, to be returned by Wednesday.
- Reading of a variety of texts for extended periods –at least 15 minutes e.g. reference books, library books, books from home etc.
- Topic related work e.g. a written piece will be recorded in a A4 Homework Book
- Weekly spellings.
- Practical maths activities set to practise and consolidate aspects of Mathematics that have been covered in school with an emphasis on mental maths.
- Parents asked to support through practical activities.
- Times-tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4.
- Homework expectations and websites/apps to support homework are on the school website in 'Our Learning – Year Group Pages'
- Children encouraged to further develop topic work through using local libraries, the internet, computer programs, the school I.C.T. centre and appropriate television.
- Opportunities to develop independent/individual study will be encouraged.
- Children provided with a 'Family Project' related to current topic.

UPPER KEY STAGE 2 (Years 5 - 6)

- Homework is set daily and timetables of homework tasks are shared with children and parents
- Reading of a variety of texts for extended periods of at least 20 minutes e.g. reference books, library books, books from home etc, books provided by school.
- Online homework tasks include: Read Theory, SPaG.com, Prodigy Maths, Can Do Maths
- Homework expectations and websites/apps to support homework are on the school website in 'Our Learning – Year Group Pages'
- Children encouraged to further develop topic work through using local libraries, the internet, computer programs, the school I.C.T. centre and appropriate television.
- Opportunities to develop independent/individual study will be encouraged.
- Children provided with a 'Family Project' related to current topic

Setting and Monitoring Homework

- It is the responsibility of the class teacher to set the homework and to keep a record of homework including pupils' responses.
- Records will need to be kept in class teacher mark book, e.g: times table test results, and used to inform future planning.
- Any class assessments directly linked to homework tasks will need to be recorded in class teachers' mark book and used to inform future planning.

Feedback

- Teachers will acknowledge homework and regular completion.
- This may include:
 - ✓ Sharing with the class
 - ✓ House point awards
 - ✓ Praise