



# Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School

## Homework Policy

Agreed: Oct 2017		Review: Oct 2019	
	Signed	Date	
Head teacher			

## Homework at Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about the learning going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, spellings, handwriting and reading.
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school and future learning and life skills.

### Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Whitley Park Primary is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

In KS2 there is an expectation that homework is completed and provision is made in school at break times for those children who struggle to complete homework at home.

### Our routines and expectations

#### Spelling Homework

All classes give out new spelling lists on a Monday and this is followed up with a spelling quiz the following week. Children are expected to learn their spellings over 7 days, which gives plenty of time if weekends are busy. A guidance sheet in the front of each child's spelling quiz book sets out the class teacher's expectations. Spelling lists may be differentiated to meet specific learner needs.

#### Reading Homework

It is important that children read or are read to every day and that this becomes part of a daily routine that is an enjoyable shared activity. We ask that children and parents complete a daily reading record to share information about the books that they have been reading. Reading records are checked each week so that we can provide advice and support to parents if it appears that reading has not become part of a child's home routine.

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## Times Tables

Times Tables practise is important in every year group and we welcome parental support at home with this. Finding fun and innovative ways of learning tables is something that really helps children with their rapid recall so parents should not be surprised to hear children singing or acting out a times table at home! Class teachers keep a record of children's progress through their times tables so that we can ensure that the majority of pupils know all tables up to and including 12 by the end of Year 4.

## Other Homework:

Any homework set should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or a maths games already familiar to your child. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do (parents are not expected to teach new skills). There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected. As far as possible, homework will be related to class topics. This is important as it helps parents to know more about what is going on in class and to support enthusiasm for learning.

Termly home learning overviews are shared with children and parents at the beginning of each new term and might include for example;

- creative projects such as making a model of the solar system in Year 5
- building a bird feeder or bird house in Year 3
- researching interesting facts about the termly topic and presenting them in the form of a book, poster or Powerpoint presentation.

By approaching homework tasks in this creative way we can ensure that each child can pursue a set task at their own level of ability.

Broadly speaking these are current expectations for each year group:

Nursery – parents sharing books and contributing to their child's Learning Journey.

Reception – daily reading, practising letter formation, sharing library books, parents contributing to their child's learning journey.

Year 1 and 2 – daily reading, times table practise, weekly spellings practised every day and choosing from at least one of the home learning challenges that are shared at the beginning of each term on the school website.

Year 3 and 4 – daily reading, weekly times table practise, weekly spellings practised every day and choosing from at least one of the home learning challenges that are shared at the beginning of each term on the school website.

Year 5 - daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), weekly spellings practised every day and choosing from at least one of the home learning challenges that are shared at the beginning of each term on the school website.

Year 6 - daily reading, weekly times tables, weekly spellings practised every day, 'Daily 15' homework set Monday – Thursday, set each morning it will take no longer than 15 minutes to complete and will cover the core subjects of reading, writing, maths, punctuation and grammar and science. Year

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6 pupils will also be expected to choose from at least one of the home learning challenges that are shared at the beginning of each term on the school website. In the term prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen.

#### What to do if you have concerns.

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

#### Working in partnership

It is only by working in close partnership with parents and carers that we can ensure that every child makes the very most of the learning opportunities available to them at our school. We value parental support with home learning as part of this partnership.

#### Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Head Teacher at least every 2 years