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But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded ~ 2 Chronicles 15:7

Homework Policy

Weston St Mary
CE Primary School

Reviewed by:	Date:	Changes made:
KC/LB	June 2025	No Amendments
LB	March 2023	Amendment to homework tasks, change to expectations of teachers (newsletters)
LB	March 2021	New front page and updated
	Dec 2017	Policy put onto updated letterhead, no amendments
SDC	Nov 2012	Removed reference to timetable, letter for parents and HT overseeing provision of homework

Schools serving their communities through excellence, exploration and encouragement within the love of God

I can do all things through him who strengthens me ~ Philippians 4:13

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Rationale for Homework

Homework can add much to a child's learning development and can play a positive role in raising a child's level of achievement. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore, from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed, we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

In addition, whilst homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school. We fully acknowledge and value the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework at Weston St Mary CE Primary School are:

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons
- To help children develop good work habits for the future

Types of Homework

We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we

encourage:

- children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents.
- the learning of spellings including High Frequency (Common) or topic -related words or regular practice of phonics and spelling patterns
- talk about a topic or theme at home prior to studying it in school. We may ask the children for example, to find and collect things that we then use in future lessons.
- the use of the school or local library, books at home and the Internet.
- talking to adults who may be able to pass on their knowledge.

At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above, but we expect them to work on the tasks more independently. We set English and Maths activities routinely each week.

These are likely to include:

- spellings/ phonics practice
- reading
- the learning and consolidation of mathematical skills, including multiplication tables
- writing and grammar tasks
- research of topic related areas of interest
- open-ended tasks – such as designing and making, interviewing, surveying to collect relevant information etc.

Through homework tasks we expect the children to:

- consolidate and reinforce learning
- revise and remember
- practice key skills
- extend their knowledge
- challenge themselves wherever they have an opportunity
- prepare for the future when they are moving on to secondary school

Homework should be relevant to what the pupils have been learning that week or term in order for them to have the optimum chance of completing it to the best of their abilities.

Amount of Homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move though the school. We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend around an hour a week doing homework, which may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend around one and a half hours per week on homework and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately two hours per week.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children access the learning activities to their best ability.

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of the process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents to check their children have homework each week and when it is to be handed in. If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

The Role of Teachers

The teachers are responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework on children are manageable. They will ensure that pupils are clear about what is expected and when it is to be returned. They will check on the progress children make with homework and ensure children receive feedback on their contribution. Teachers will inform parents and carers of homework expectations within termly newsletters.

Review Date: March 2023