

# *Weston Park Primary School*



## **Homework Policy**

Date of last review: November 2015

Date of next review: July 2016

# HOMWORK POLICY

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

## **Regular, well planned homework can:**

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- Develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future.
- Encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance.
- Help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school.
- Provide opportunities for individualised work and develop skills of independent learning.
- Offer access to resources not found in school (public libraries, local museums etc.).
- Consolidate and reinforce learning undertaken in school and assist in preparation for future class work.
- Provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.

Homework is seen as 'an essential part of good education that supports children's development as independent learners'. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

## **What is Homework?**

Homework should not be a chore, children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

At Weston Park Primary School, we see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- reading with a parent
- spelling practise
- a family visit to a local museum
- finishing off work from the class
- undertaking individual research for a project (at the local library)
- learning number facts ( tables )
- literacy activities both written and verbal
- being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation

It can be seen from this list that homework can be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school.

## **The role of the School**

During each term of the school year every parent receives an invitation to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss progress and areas of study to be undertaken in relation to the National Curriculum. These discussions will include information about the types of homework which might be set by school as well as indicating activities parents might wish to develop with their children.

- When teachers set homework they will ensure that it is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom.
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities, especially for those pupils with special educational needs.
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.
- Work is marked as promptly as possible.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and included in the report to parents.
- Opportunities for the regular, formal evaluation of homework are provided for teachers, parents and children as part of the on-going consultation arrangements.
- All children will be expected to complete tasks. They will be given an opportunity to succeed in this through using a homework session in school leisure time if they continually fail to complete it.
- We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school.
- Children in year 6 may be given more homework if it is felt it will support their learning as they approach the SATs.

If a child persistently does not complete homework then the teacher may contact the parents and ask to speak to them in order for school and home to work in partnership for the benefit of the child.

## **The Role of Parents**

Parents need to discuss with their children the following questions:

- When is it a good time to do any homework?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What helps concentration?
- How long should the homework take?

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work. Parents need to listen to the child's explanation of what they have to do and discuss the work their child is doing and whether or not help is needed plus what form this might take.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If they wish to make a formal complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should put their complaint in writing as stated in the Complaints Procedure.

### **Pupils with special educational needs - SEND**

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 can contribute in a positive way.

### **Monitoring and Review**

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. The governing body may, at any time, request from the Headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in the school.

## Homework at Weston Park Primary School

Year	What	When Given Out	When returned	Additional information
<b>R</b>	Fantastic 4 (tricky words to learn to read)	Weekly	N/A	Given out based on differentiation and AFL. Differentiated
	Phonics sounds sheets and related activities	Fortnightly	Wednesday	
	Maths activities	Fortnightly	Wednesday	Variety of cross curricular activities based on forthcoming topic.
	Topic project	Before a holiday	Wednesday on return to school	
<b>1</b>	Spellings	Friday	Wednesday test	Homework projects are sent home over half terms.
	Literacy/maths alternate weeks	Friday	Thursday	
<b>2</b>	Spellings	Friday	Friday test	Homework projects are sent home over half terms.
	Literacy/maths alternate weeks	Friday	Thursday	
<b>3</b>	Spellings	Friday	Wednesday	Tested Thursday Differentiated tasks
	Literacy Task	Friday		
	Maths Task (alternate weeks) Topic Reading Log	Half termly On-going		
<b>4</b>	Spellings	Friday	Wednesday	Tested Friday
	Literacy Task	Rotation 1 Friday	Wednesday	
	Maths Task	Rotation 2 Friday	Wednesday	Differentiated tasks
	Topic	Rotation 3 Friday	Wednesday	
	Basic Number Facts Multiplication Tables Reading Log	Friday On-going	Wednesday	
<b>5</b>	1 English /Topic /Science	Friday	Wednesday	Trialling 'talk homework' from time to time which has been really positive so far in encouraging those reluctant to do homework or the struggling writers
	1 Maths	Friday	Wednesday	
	1 Spellings	Tuesday	Friday	
	Reading	Friday	Friday	
<b>6</b>	English / Topic and Science	Friday	Wednesday	Trialling 'talk homework' from time to time which has been really positive so far in encouraging those reluctant to do homework or the struggling writers
	1 Maths	Friday	Wednesday	
	1 Spellings	Tuesday	Friday	
	Reading	On-going	On-going	