



HOMEWORK POLICY

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS: 11th July 2022

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED: July 2025

Introduction

Nurturing life skills and inspiring achievement for today and tomorrow

M Mastering successful learning skills through a growth mindset approach so that we become confident risk takers with our learning.

A Achieving through challenge so that everyone reaches their full potential, academically, emotionally and socially.

N Nurturing life skills so that we become independent, resilient and self-assured learners.

U Understanding and valuing others so that we become active and engaged citizens in our community.

D Developing a positive learning environment, which is safe, stimulating, enjoyable and supportive.

E Engaging creativity and curiosity through purposeful and inspiring learning experiences so that all individuals are motivated to learn both in and out of school.

N Nourishing healthy behaviour through physical activity, a balanced diet and positive thinking so that our wellbeing impacts on our happiness in everyday life.

Aims

The Governors and Staff of the school believe that one of the most effective ways for children to learn is through the development of a partnership between home and school. The partnership should reflect a common ethos of caring and valuing children. All members of staff are expected to be familiar with the policy and to apply it consistently.

We believe that homework is important because:

- It supports children's progress.
- It provides opportunities for research and developing interests, which may lead to lifelong learning.
- It encourages children to be responsible and work independently from their peer group.
- It provides valuable practice of subject skills learned in the classroom.
- It encourages organisational skills.
- It prepares children for secondary school.

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- It provides opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in a partnership in relation to children's learning.
- It can be used as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment and enjoyment of learning.
- It provides opportunities for children to use and develop the school life skills.
- It provides opportunities to celebrate children's achievements.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To ensure homework is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework and provide written/oral feedback in a timely manner
- To provide useful guides/tips to support with homework tasks. These will be added to the class blogs or website. For example, a maths strategy that a class may be working on may be added to the blog through a mini video or a sequence of pictorial steps.

The Governors and Staff expect parents' support with work at home in the following ways:

Children in the Foundation Stage, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two will bring home their reading book and reading record and read regularly each week. We believe that children benefit from a regular short reading session and comments should be recorded in reading records each time the child reads with an adult. In addition, those children working within the Little Wandle Phonics System will receive an e-book each week and a reading for pleasure book to read regularly at home each week.

We ask for all parents' continued support in the practice of reading skills as their child progresses through the school.

Details of all homework will be logged in the Homework Book.

Parents/Carers can help children by:

- Checking that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the Homework Book and Reading Record Book.
- Helping their child organise his or her time so that tasks are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- Making sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- Taking a positive and active interest in their child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- By providing explanations and encouragement but making sure that the homework is all their child's work.
- Letting us know if there are problems with homework that cannot be resolved at home. We do not want this to be the cause of conflict at home. If there are problems, in the first instance parents should contact the class teacher who will be glad to help.

Of course, we appreciate that many children participate in out of school activities. These are also important and we anticipate that children will be able to develop the use of our school life skills during these times. We aim for homework to be 'little and often', which should give enough time for individuals to pursue other interests.

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Homework can be a shared and pleasurable activity – developing a lifelong positive attitude towards learning.

Homework Guidelines

Homework will be given on a regular basis to all children.

Reception

- Regular reading with their parents/carers.
- To practice reading a range of high frequency words and extend reading vocabulary.
- To complete half-termly homework tasks. All of the tasks are linked to the class 'Learning Experience' and encompass the Early Learning Goals.

In addition, we would recommend that parents use other everyday opportunities to support their children in practising reading, writing and Mathematic skills.

Examples of this would be:

- Reading labels and signs.
- Reading and writing letters, making notes, birthday cards, shopping lists etc.
- Playing word and number games such as word snap, snakes and ladders etc.
- Measuring, reading and counting in simple cooking recipes.
- Real shopping and role-play using money.
- Chanting rhymes and singing songs.

Key Stage One

- Practice reading skills for ten minutes or more at least three times a week
- Practise number bonds and/or times tables.
- Complete weekly Mathematics and/or English tasks.
- If children would like to complete their own creative, project-based homework linking to the current class learning or Experience Outcome, this will be shared and celebrated.
- Homework is given out on a Wednesday and returned to school on a Monday

Key Stage Two

- Practise their reading skills for 15 minutes or more at least three-times a week
- Practice Times Tables for rapid recall at least three times each week.
- To complete the weekly Mathematics and/or English task.
- If children would like to complete their own creative, project-based homework linking to the current class learning or Experience Outcome, this will be shared and celebrated.
- Homework is given out on a Tuesday or Wednesday and returned to school on a Monday

All children have a homework book to record and log their homework in. It is anticipated that children take pride in this book and the expectation is that care is taken when undertaking homework tasks so that presentation can be at its best. In line with the school's Handwriting Policy, children are expected to use a cursive handwriting script in Key Stage 2.

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All children will have poetry, dialogue and sometimes music to be learned for productions, music/verse speaking and other school events. Occasionally the Headteacher may also set creative homework for holiday periods.

Timings

Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress in the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the school.

Guidelines for how much time should be spent on homework are as follows:

Reception (Snowy Owl Class)	30-45 minutes per week
Key Stage One (Barn Owl Class)	1 hour per week
Lower Key Stage Two (Hawk Owl Class)	1.5 hours per week
Upper Key Stage Two (Eagle Owl Class)	2 hours per week

Outstanding examples of homework will be shared and celebrated with the school community – via class exhibitions, sharing assemblies, headteacher awards and the school newsletter.

Equal Opportunities

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, family circumstances, social, ethnic or linguistic background. The school is committed in ensuring that all pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

Absences

If children are absent from school due to illness, homework will not be sent home, as it is assumed that the child was too ill to work. If a child is absent for a length of time, the teacher and parent will agree what work can be completed, along with the type of support that may be needed. In such situations, the teacher will consult the headteacher.

The school has made the decision to not give homework when parents take holidays in term time as this is strongly discouraged and holidays will not be authorised.

Useful websites

The school website hosts a wealth of resources:

The ones listed below are particularly useful:

- Calculation Policy
- Maths Policy
- SPAG Policy
- Suggested reading lists
- Homework packs
- Class Blogs and Class Pages on our school website

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Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Parents/Carers will receive information about individual progress with homework through Parent Teacher Consultations and the Annual Report, or more frequently if necessary.

Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher will be responsible for assisting the Governing Body to monitor the effectiveness of the policy.