

Wessington Primary School

Homework Policy

Review Date: Summer 2025
Next review date: Summer 2026
Person in charge: Headteacher

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 is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. 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. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

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. While 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.

Creative Homework

Homework grids will be given out at the start of each topic. The tasks in each grid are designed to encourage collaboration with parents and carers. The children will gain points for each task, parents and carers will be invited in to the children's celebration of homework throughout the year.

Aims

The aims and objectives of homework 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 enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- 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.

Type of Homework

Regular reading within both key stages is vital, and as such, it will play an important part of homework. This will involve children taking reading books home to read with parents/carers, and in the case of older children it may involve them reading a reference book as part of a project.

Care will be taken to ensure that too much homework time is not spent finishing off work started, but not finished in class.

Children may be asked to research information and may use CD roms and the internet if available. Most research may be followed up using books either at home or a visit to the library.

Amount of Homework

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of the tasks that are set, and the way they are planned to support learning. A regular pattern for the setting of homework is also important so that children, parents and teachers have a clear routine. It needs to be remembered that any homework which is set needs to be manageable for children, and as such, should be given in realistic blocks of time, and not as one large weekly block.

The following are suggested time allocations for homework:

Reception	-	Reading everyday
Years 1 & 2	-	Reading, spellings and creative homework
Years 3 & 4	-	Reading, weekly spellings and creative homework
Years 5 & 6	-	Emphasis on literacy & numeracy, but also ranging widely over the curriculum through creative homework.

It should be remembered that daily reading forms an integral and important role in the homework process.

Special Educational Needs

Children with special educational needs should have homework set which appropriately matches their individual requirements. Homework should be seen as a way of consolidating and extending their individual abilities - not as a way of attempting to get these children to catch up with the rest of the class.

Tasks should have:

- * Have a clear focus and time guidance.
- * Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed.
- * Be varied.

- * Be manageable for teachers.

Role of School

Class teachers need to ensure that homework is appropriate and manageable for pupils, and parent/carers.

Class teachers will be able to establish regular patterns to homework, particularly for literacy and numeracy.

The Headteacher will monitor the homework process on a regular basis.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers play an important and integral part in the homework process. They should be encouraged to hear children read on a regular basis, and to gradually give more assistance to children with other aspects of their homework as they progress through the school. Parents need to make it clear to children that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning. They also need to encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework.

Evaluation

In evaluating the homework process within school the following criteria will be focused on:

- * The extent to which the process is contributing to the childrens' progress within school.
- * The children's' attitude and motivation towards their learning.
- * The effectiveness of the communication process between parents and school.

Monitoring

The Headteacher will be involved in the on-going monitoring of homework within the school.

The homework policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Parents will be involved in the review of homework at termly parents' evenings.

Signed

Headteacher

Chair of Governors