



WINWICK CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Homework 2024-25

At Winwick CE Primary School, we want all our pupils to aspire and achieve to be the best that they can be, in order to have the best possible start to life. We believe that spending time at home completing purposeful activities to support their studies in school enhances children's attainment, with a particular focus on children's reading. We also recognise the need for children to focus on their mental health and wellbeing at home too and, because of this, have adapted our homework policy to provide a greater balance between home learning and wellbeing.

Through the setting of homework, which relates to pupils' work in school we aim:

- To reinforce and/or consolidate children's skills, knowledge and understanding to support them to improve their academic performance.
- To develop in children a mature and independent attitude to their work so that they will become increasingly independent learners.
- To develop children's organisational and time management skills, particularly as children enter Key Stage 2 and become more independent when managing their home learning.
- To promote partnership and cooperation between parents, carers, teachers and pupils.

"Instruct us in the way of knowledge and wisdom and lead us along straight paths." (Proverbs 4:11).

GUIDEDANCE & RESEARCH:

'Reading enhances educational attainment. By feeding into cognitive skill development, forms of reasoning, complex concepts and imaginative richness, reading supports children to develop problem solving and intellectual capacities... Reading is associated with improved interpersonal and social skills, helping children form meaningful relationships... Children who read have higher levels of mental wellbeing and happiness... Children who regularly read for pleasure have better self-esteem and emotional regulation, with lower levels of emotional and behavioural challenges such as anxiety and aggression than those who don't... Shared reading has a unique and transformative impact on school attainment. Shared reading at home exerts a stronger influence on children's academic performance than parents' supervision, control of homework or attendance of school activities... It is the emotional aspects of shared reading (e.g., cuddling, smiling, singing, and laughing) that boosts a child's brain activities needed to forge secure attachment, not the parent or carer's reading skill.'

- Book Trust. The Benefits of Reading. June 2024

"Homework has been extensively researched. There is a relatively consistent picture that pupils in schools which give more homework perform better, although for primary age pupils the difference is small...It is certainly the case that schools whose pupils do homework tend to be more successful...when homework is used as a short and focused intervention it can be effective in improving students' attainment..."

- Education Endowment Foundation, April 2020

At Winwick C of E Primary School, whilst we appreciate the value of homework, we believe it is equally important that children of all ages need time to develop through a wide range of activities such as play, participation in clubs, etc. It is therefore vital that children should not be overburdened with formal homework, whilst still giving children an opportunity to reinforce their learning and focus on the development of key skills, with the support of their adults at home.

ORGANISATION, LEARNING TOOLS & RESOURCES

Homework set by the class teacher is compulsory. It is set throughout the school and children are expected to complete it weekly. However, the type of activity, the nature of parental support required, the duration of the homework and its frequency will vary according to the age and ability of the pupil.

Contact will be made between parents and teachers through Reading Records/Google Classroom and - if there is an ongoing issue with homework - teachers will request a meeting with parents. If there is an issue with completion of tasks on the set days, parents are to liaise with the class teachers via the School Office and come to a mutual agreement.

At the beginning of the year, pupils will be given a Homework Diary/Reading Record, along with an ICT Passport which will contain all their individual login information for any online learning tools they will have access to.

As a school, we understand that all children and families are different and – where parents/carers wish for their child to engage in further opportunities for home learning in addition to compulsory homework, our online learning tools and resources ensure that children can access a range of activities to enhance their learning at home further.

Each term, there will also be some weeks where there is a whole school home learning activity linked to our different school values.

REQUIRED HOMEWORK

Reception

In Reception, children's homework will be phased up as the year progresses.

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Reception:

- Reading: 5 reads per week, recorded in children's Reading Record. This will be from a range of texts including: phonetically decodable books linked to their current learning in Phonics, reading for pleasure books and level appropriate books to develop their fluency and enjoyment. (5 x 5 minutes)
- Weekly Phonics/Spelling activity (10 minutes)
- Alternating Weekly activity linked to a focus area of learning in EYFS (10 minutes)

KEY STAGE 1

In Year 1, children's homework will be phased up as the year progresses.

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Year 1:

- Reading: 5 reads per week, recorded in children's Reading Record. This will be from a range of texts including: phonetically decodable books linked to their current learning in Phonics, reading for pleasure books and level appropriate books to develop their fluency and enjoyment. (5 x 5 minutes)
- Weekly Phonics/Spelling activity (10 minutes)
- Weekly Mathematics activity (10 minutes)

In Year 2, children's homework will be phased up as the year progresses.

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Year 2:

- Reading: 5 reads per week, recorded in children's Reading Record. This will be from a range of texts including: phonetically decodable books linked to their current learning in Phonics (if applicable), reading for pleasure books and level appropriate books to develop their fluency and enjoyment. (5 x 5 minutes)
- Weekly Phonics/Spelling/Grammar activity (15 minutes)
- Weekly Mathematics activity (15 minutes)
- Weekly Times Tables focus (5 minutes) – Summer Term

Examples of the main body of homework set in KS1:

- Weekly spelling/phonics homework list for children to learn.
- EXTENSION to spellings/phonics: Write spelling words into a sentence.
- Weekly times tables focus (Y2 only – Summer term)
- Individual Reading / Reading Eggs
- Mathematics Activity: this will usually focus on key basic skills in Mathematics relevant to the children's year group. This will alternate between online and paper-based learning across the academic year. (e.g. SumDog and TTRockstars for Y2)
- Phonics/Spelling/Grammar Activity: This will link to key areas of the children to reinforce children's learning. This will alternate between online and paper-based learning across the academic year.
- Short Writing Task
- Project Work linked to a key unit of the curriculum

KEY STAGE 2

Lower Key Stage 2: Years 3 and 4

In Years 3 and 4, children's homework will be phased up as the year progresses.

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Years 3 and 4:

- Reading: 5 reads per week, recorded in children's Reading Record. This will be from a range of texts including: reading for pleasure books and level appropriate books to develop their fluency and enjoyment. (5 x 5 minutes)
- Weekly Phonics/Spelling/Grammar activity (20 minutes)
- Weekly Mathematics activity (20 minutes)
- Weekly Times Tables focus (10 minutes)

Examples of the main body of homework set in Lower KS2:

- Weekly spelling homework list for children to learn.
- EXTENSION to spellings: Write spelling words into a sentence.
- Weekly times tables focus.
- Individual Reading / Reading Eggs or Reading Plus
- Mathematics Activity: this will usually focus on key basic skills in Mathematics relevant to the children's year group. This will alternate between online and paper-based learning across the academic year. (e.g. SumDog and TTRockstars)
- Spelling/Grammar Activity: This will link to key areas of the children to reinforce children's learning. This will alternate between online and paper-based learning across the academic year.
- Short Writing Task
- Project Work linked to a key unit of the curriculum

Upper Key Stage 2: Years 5 and 6

In Years 5 and 6, children's homework will be phased up as the year progresses.

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Years 5 and 6:

- Reading: 5 reads per week, recorded in children's Reading Record. This will be from a range of texts including: reading for pleasure books and level appropriate books to develop their fluency and enjoyment. (5 x 5 minutes)
- Weekly Spelling/Grammar activity (30 minutes)
- Weekly Mathematics activity (30 minutes)
- Weekly Times Tables focus (10 minutes)

Examples of the main body of homework set in Upper KS2:

- Weekly spelling homework list for children to learn.
- EXTENSION to spellings: Write spelling words into a sentence.
- Weekly times tables focus.
- Individual Reading / Reading Plus
- Mathematics Activity: this will usually focus on key basic skills in Mathematics relevant to the children's year group. This will alternate between online and paper-based learning across the academic year. (e.g. SumDog and TTRockstars, Maths.co.uk Y6 only)
- Spelling/Grammar Activity: This will link to key areas of the children to reinforce children's learning. This will alternate between online and paper-based learning across the academic year.
- Short Writing Task
- Project Work linked to a key unit of the curriculum

Where appropriate, homework will be adapted to meet the needs of the children. For some children, particularly our pupils with SEND, homework may differ to the format outlined above. Details about weekly homework will be added to Google Classroom and may sometimes be sent via School PING.

DEADLINES

Deadlines will be set and shared for homework activities and staff must also ensure that the purpose of the homework is made clear to pupils when it is set. It is important that children and parents/carers check the homework when it is set and, if required, liaise with the class teacher if there are uncertainties and/or difficulties.

If a child is struggling with an activity, we advise parents/carers not to exceed the times suggested for completion of a specific activity, instead, please contact the School Office, who will happily coordinate a date and time for a meeting with staff.

Most homework will be set across a week, but some projects may run across a number of weeks. Teachers will ensure that deadlines are clear for when work must be completed by/handed in.

Individual Reading Records MUST be brought into school each day and will usually be taken home at the end of day.

FEEDBACK TO PUPILS:

When children do work on their own it is important they receive feedback as quickly as possible. This may be through class work, through tests, or through individual comments from the teacher. Written feedback is very time consuming and is not possible all of the time. Other strategies e.g. reviewing homework in small groups, marking together, verbal feedback or sharing their work with others etc. will be used. The online programmes such as SumDog, TTRockstars and Reading Plus enable us to track and monitor progress over time.

RESOURCES

Pupils will all be provided with a Reading Record at the beginning of the school year. Parents' signatures are required in this record; with parents signing each time their child has read at home, as well as signing at the end of the week once homework has been completed. The purpose of this record is to aid good communication between home and school and to act as an aid to children, parents and staff.

Pupils will be provided with an individual IT Passport at the beginning of the academic year which will contain all their individual login information for all of our online learning tools for pupils to access at home.

If a problem arises in the homework, staff will be available to discuss the matter with pupils, usually the day after homework is set. Parents will need to contact class teachers either before the start of school or at the end of the school day to discuss any concerns. Teachers will be unable to discuss issues after 8.45am due to their teaching commitments.

Pupils' families are invited to support and extend pupil homework. This support will include being involved in discussions and guidance but it may also be about other activities which have taken place over a weekend, for example work on a project. Although it is important to support pupils, it is equally important that pupils complete homework as independently as possible, particularly as pupils move through the school.

If you have a difficulty in completing any homework set due to lack of IT resources at home there will be the opportunity for pupils to complete any task within school time as long as the class teacher has been made aware that this support from school may be needed prior to the homework deadline date; parents/carers should contact school if there are IT issues which might impact on a pupil's ability to complete their homework.

RECORD-KEEPING

Teachers will keep records of which pupils return their homework so that they can feed this into teacher parent meetings. Teachers will contact parents if homework is not being completed, as per this policy; in the first instance, this will be via School PING, following which parents will be contacted via telephone call and/or the teacher may arrange a meeting to discuss this further.

CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS

Homework may refer to areas of the curriculum other than the core subjects. However, an emphasis on English and Mathematics work is essential. Cross-curricular homework may be in the form of mini projects for pupils to complete linked to areas of the curriculum they are currently learning about in school and may still include elements of English and Mathematics, but on occasion will solely link to a specific curriculum area.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- All homework set provides suitable challenges/opportunities to pupils of all abilities.
- No homework assignment shall compromise any pupil on the grounds of race, culture, class, gender or physical or mental ability.
- All pupils are entitled to prompt and appropriate feedback on completion of their homework.
- All pupils will have access to computer technology to complete anything within the school day if they do not have access to this at home. Parents must notify school if this is the case.
- **Homework Club – staff availability permitting – will run during lunch times 3 days a week. Children can sign up to this if the need support help/access to technology.**