



WINWICK CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Homework

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.

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:

"Homework isn't just some joyless pursuit of knowledge. It's an integral part of learning. Beyond the chance to practice and reinforce what you've learned in class, it's also an opportunity to develop independent study and application – and character traits like perseverance. At primary school, too, we all want our children to develop their knowledge – but we also want them to develop values...Ultimately, of course, the responsibility for a child's educational development is a shared one. Parental involvement makes a big difference, from the very earliest stage. From motivation and self-discipline to the wonder of independent learning, homework can teach children about far more..."

- Damien Hinds, Education Secretary, October 2018

"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.

In Government recommended guidelines, the amount of time each week which pupils in primary schools should spend on homework suggests that children in Key Stage 1 should receive an hour a week of homework; those in Years 3 and 4 should receive 90 minutes per week; and pupils in the final two years of primary school (Years 5 and 6) should receive 30 minutes of homework each day.

ORGANISATION:

Homework 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 the Homework Diaries/Reading Records 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 and come to a mutual agreement.

LEARNING TOOLS & RESOURCES

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.

Reception

Children in Reception will usually be given up to 60 minutes homework per week. In Autumn, this will take place as a phased approach, building up to the full hour.

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Reception:

- Reading: 5 x 5 minutes per week (25 minutes)
- Phonics/Spelling Activity: 10 minutes
- Maths Activity: 10 minutes
- Additional Activity/Activities: Up to 15 minutes per week (15 minutes)
- *TOTAL TIME: 1 hour*

Key Stage 1

Children in Key Stage 1 will usually be given 60 minutes homework per week up to a maximum of 90 minutes. In Key Stage 1, information about weekly homework will be found on Google Classroom on individual class pages. Some activities will be set directly through Google Classroom; instructions for other activities may be added to Google Classroom which will direct children to an alternative online learning tool (e.g. SumDog, TTRockstars, Purple Mash, Reading Eggs, etc).

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Key Stage 1:

- Reading: 5 x 5 minutes per week (25 minutes)
- Phonics/Spelling Activity: 5 minutes
- English Activity: 15 minutes
- Maths Activity: 15 minutes
- *TOTAL TIME: 1 hour*

The main body of homework set in KS1 comprises the following activities:

- Weekly spelling homework list
- Weekly times tables focus (Y2 only)
- Individual Reading
- Maths Activity: this will usually be a consolidation of newly taught concepts and/or revision of previous taught topics. SumDog and TTRockstars (Y2) will be the main homework tools used to set Maths homework tasks in KS1, with instructional information added to Google Classroom.

- English Activity: this may link to a range of different aspects of English, for example; grammar task, phonics task, spelling investigation, sentence writing, research, presentation, discussion. Google Classroom will be the main homework tools used to set English homework tasks in KS1.
- Reading Eggs

Key Stage 2: Years 3 and 4

Children in Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) will usually be given 90 minutes homework per week, up to a maximum of 120 minutes. In Key Stage 2, information about weekly homework will be found on Google Classroom on individual class pages. Some activities will be set directly through Google Classroom; instructions for other activities may be added to Google Classroom which will direct children to an alternative online learning tool (e.g. SumDog, TTRockstars, Purple Mash, Reading Plus, etc).

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Year 3/Year 4:

- Reading: 5 x 5 minutes per week (25 minutes)
- Reading Plus: 1 x Comprehension Activity - 15 minutes
- English Activity: 15 minutes
- Phonics/Spelling Activity: 5 minutes
- Maths Activity: 20 minutes
- Times Tables: 5 minutes
- *TOTAL TIME: 1 hour 30 minutes (90 minutes)*

Key Stage 2: Years 5 and 6

Children in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) will usually be given 150 minutes per week up to a maximum of 180 minutes. In Key Stage 2, information about weekly homework will be found on Google Classroom on individual class pages. Some activities will be set directly through Google Classroom; instructions for other activities may be added to Google Classroom which will direct children to an alternative online learning tool (e.g. SumDog, TTRockstars, Purple Mash, Reading Plus, etc).

Example of a weekly homework timetable for Year 5/Year 6:

- Reading: 5 x 5 minutes per week (25 minutes)
- Reading Plus: 2 x Comprehension Activities – 35 minutes
- English Activity: 30 minutes
- Spellings: 15 minutes
- Maths Activity: 30 minutes
- Times Tables: 15 minutes
- *TOTAL TIME: 2 hours 30 minutes (150 minutes)*

The main body of homework set in KS2 comprises the following activities:

- Weekly spelling homework list
- Weekly times tables focus
- Individual Reading
- Maths Activity: this will usually be a consolidation of newly taught concepts and/or revision of previous taught topics. SumDog, TTRockstars and Century will be the main homework tools used to set Maths homework tasks in KS2, with instructional information added to Google Classroom.
- English Activity: this may link to a range of different aspects of English, for example; grammar task, spelling investigation, planning a piece of writing, research, presentation, discussion.

Google Classroom and Century will be the main homework tools used to set English homework tasks in KS2.

- Reading Plus

DEADLINES

Homework should be differentiated to the needs of individual children, where appropriate. Staff must also ensure that the purpose of the homework is made clear to pupils when it is set.

Most homework will be set on a Monday and must be completed/handed in by 9am on the following Monday. The exception to this will be spelling/times tables homework, which may differ between classes/groups; information about the dates spelling/times tables homework will be set (if different than Monday to Monday) will be communicated to parents/carers via the half-termly Parent Information Sheets that are sent out via School PING at the beginning of each half term.

Individual reading books/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 Homework Diary/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. These learning tools include:

- Google Classroom
- Purple Mash
- SumDog
- TTRockstars
- Reading Plus (KS2)
- Reading Eggs
- Century (KS2)
- Evidence Me (Reception only)

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. Teacher 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 pupils ability to complete their homework.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- All homework set provides suitable challenges 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.

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 maths 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 Maths, but on occasion will solely link to a specific curriculum area.