

Whitehill Junior School

Homework Policy



Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every three years (or sooner if significant changes to governing body).

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body in February 2018.

It is due for review in February 2021 (up to 36 months from the above date).

Key questions during the review should be:

- How has the current policy impacted upon pupil attainment and achievement?
- What significant changes have there been to the National Curriculum?
- How does this impact upon the 'Marking and Feedback' policy?

Signature

Date

Head Teacher

Signature

Date

Chair of Governors

Homework Policy

Updated February 2018



Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed by the whole staff in conjunction with the pupils and parents and has the full agreement of the governing body.

Aims

- To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school, whilst leaving scope for flexibility between classes
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of achievement
- To extend the learning experience beyond the classroom
- To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work together in partnership in relation to the pupils' learning
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences
- To reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge especially in Maths and English
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school
- To provide timely feedback to pupils against the homework they have submitted

The Nature of Homework

Homework should support ideas and skills learned in class. The tasks should extend, enrich, accelerate, consolidate and practise those ideas and skills. It should not be given just to fill a 20 minute slot and can take many different forms.

It should enable parents to become positively involved in their child's work in school.

It should encourage children to develop and nurture independence, self-direction and organisational skills.

It should be matched to children's abilities and needs.

Glossary

- **Practice and consolidate** – typically spelling lists, reading or handwriting.
- **Acceleration** – when a child is given work which would typically be for older pupils.
- **Enrichment** – tasks that will broaden and deepen your child's understanding.
- **Extension** – tasks where your child is encouraged to develop deep and more sophisticated thinking. If they are being asked to think of ways to recycle waste, why not consider the reasons why?

Role of the School

- Children should ask the class teacher for help if they have not understood or remembered instructions or are finding the work difficult. **To develop their independence as learners it is important that they do this for themselves.**

- Your child's teacher will know whether what has been produced is of appropriate quantity and quality and will give feedback to the child.
- The class teacher may from time to time give feedback to parents as a note in a child's homework diary.
- All work set will have been previously taught or introduced in class. You are not expected to teach your child new work although from time to time a teacher may ask you to go over an idea with which a child has been struggling.

Role of the Parents / Carers

- Encourage your child to check their homework diary to remind them of what needs to be done.
- Agree on a time for homework to be done, preferably well before it is due to be handed in.
- Provide a suitable place for your child to work and encourage working without close supervision, in order to help them develop independence.
- Tell them how long they have got to spend on the work when they start and invite them to show you what they have done at the end of the task.
- Read to your child and encourage them to read widely.

In all tasks quality matters more than quantity

Timing of Homework

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Longer tasks will have more than one day set aside between the work being given and the date for completion, however there are times when tasks will need to be completed for the following day, for example, practice and consolidation of a lesson's objectives.

Homework will be given on a flexible basis according to the need of your child's class or individual children. Over the course of a week this should not exceed 1½ hours in total.

At Whitehill Junior School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take a view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what pupils can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for pupils to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Parents / carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or target group teacher.