



Willow Fields Community Primary School Homework Policy

Aims and Objectives

- 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 and sharing each child's learning experience and opportunities.
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons.
- To help children to develop good work habits for the future.

We expect homework to be:

Completed by the child with only guidance by the parent/carer when needed.
Produced neatly and to the standard expected in school.
Handed in, in well-kept homework books and folders.
Handed in on time.

Homework will be closely linked to the learning taking place in class at that time. All children are encouraged to ask their teacher for clarification and support if needed.

Foundation Stage

Formal homework is not set for the youngest children in our school but parents are informed of the topics taking place in the Foundation Unit and are given activities to complete. We would encourage the parents of the Foundation children to discuss their child's day in the unit with them and ask them questions about what they have been doing. Parents may wish to help their child find out more things about the current topic by visiting libraries, museums, farms and other relevant places of interest linked to the learning being covered.

Reading stories from school and at home is vital in developing young children's speaking, listening and early Literacy skills so we would encourage daily reading and discussion around books – both fiction and non-fiction, to take place. Children should also be encouraged to practice their reading, early writing and number skills as they go about their everyday activities with their families e.g. what number can you see on the bus, how many spoonful's of flour to make the cake.

Staff may also send words and letter sounds home for additional practice if this is felt to be beneficial to certain children. Additional advice is available by speaking to the Foundation staff.

Reading

We encourage all children in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to read daily at home. We encourage the younger children to read by giving them books and words to take home to read with their parents. Home reading should be recorded in the Home Reading Diary. Reading, however, is not just about the material sent home from school. Reading is all around and children should be encouraged to read a range of materials.

Literacy

Children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will have one piece of Literacy work each alternate week alongside reading. This will support the classroom learning and may include comprehension work, written work, handwriting practice or maths skills. Children should complete the work in the time given.

Mathematics

Children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will have one piece of Maths work each alternate week. This will support the classroom learning and may include calculation work, practical maths activities linked to topic e.g. shape, measures, or be mental work such as reciting number bonds and multiplication tables. Children should complete the work in the time given.

Years 5 and 6 – The children in years 5 and 6 will receive both Literacy and Maths homework each week. This is to prepare them for the rigours of homework when they reach secondary school.

Cross-Curricular Topic Work

Children may also be requested to complete some topic work researching different aspects using books, the Internet and other sources. Occasionally we ask children to take work home that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it.

Amount of Homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they progress through the school. We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately 1 hour per week doing homework. We expect children in Key Stage 2 to spend 2 hours per week and as necessary set by the teacher.

Sanctions if homework is not completed or handed in on time

It is expected that children will complete the homework set by staff and hand it in on time and to a good standard. If homework is missed, then the following procedures will take place:

- Every child will be given an additional day's grace to hand it in – this will be given on a Wednesday.
- Homework club is **compulsory** on a Thursday for children to complete their homework.
- If homework is missed for two consecutive weeks, parents will be contacted and an appointment with staff will be offered to discuss any issues.

If children are absent when the homework is set or handed in, then they will be recorded as absent. Staff will encourage them to catch up the homework but the sanctions will not be enforced.

Parents are advised to contact their child's class teacher if there are exceptional circumstances, which lead to a child being unable to complete homework.

Marking of Homework

It is expected that all homework handed in by the child will be valued and marked. Homework will be placed in homework books, which will contribute to the work of the child in the specific subject area. All homework will be marked by the class teacher.

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We encourage parents to check that their child's homework has been completed to a good standard and to encourage their child to ensure it is handed in on time. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.

Parents can support their child by provided a good working space at home, by discussing and questioning them about the work that their child is doing. Parents should also provide the basic equipment e.g. pencil, pen, ruler, dictionary, protractor (Key Stage 2).

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school's homework policy, or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the Head teacher.