

St Lawrence CE Primary School



Homework Policy

Revised: June 2020

Consultation with staff and Governors

and adoption of policy: Summer Term 2020

Review date: Summer Term 2022

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 variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Rationale for Homework

Homework is 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. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework can play a 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. 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.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To enable pupils to make 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 provide additional educational experiences outside of 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.

Types of Homework

Reception children have a homework book which contains letters and the sounds they make and high frequency words.

Year One children have a homework book (see above) plus weekly spellings.

Years 2 and 3 children are set a weekly homework task for numeracy. In addition to this they are set a literacy piece or an activity relating to their current topic. Some tasks will be weekly and others may take the form of a project which could take place over a number of weeks e.g. researching and building homes for wildlife.

Spellings homework moves from learning the first 100 high frequency words to words with particular letter patterns, the latter may take the form of 'hunting' for such words in texts at home and when out and about. As such the children will become more proactive in learning about letter patterns rather than learning a weekly set list.

Homework is not usually set on the last week of a half term or term and the holiday is a time to focus on reading at home.

Children are expected to read to an adult at least four times a week and parents are asked to acknowledge this in reading logs, this allows the teacher to see how well the child is supported at home and can form an extra means of communication should this be needed. Children are responsible for changing their 'level reading book' in class and may also choose a book from the 'book corner' to take home.

Year Four children have weekly spellings, times tables and other mathematics related work.

Year Five children have weekly spellings, times tables and other mathematics related work plus a topic related activity each week.

Year Six children receive the above, plus additional literacy / numeracy homework as a means of aiding children's transition to KS3 from the spring term.

In addition, we encourage all children to read by giving them / allowing them to select books to take home to read and share with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.

Teachers may also provide a weekly 'practical' activity which the children can carry out at home and which links directly to work in class.

Amount of Homework

In line with current Government recommendations, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We expect Key stage 1 children to spend approximately 1 hour a week doing homework.

Children in years 3 and 4 are expected to spend approximately 15-20 minutes per night on homework and children in years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night.

The Role of Parents

We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their child 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 providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the head teacher.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Concerns raised by any parent about the school's homework policy are given careful consideration by the governing body. The Governing body may, at any time, request from our head teacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.