



Weston Mill Community Primary School

HOMEWORK POLICY



Homework Policy

What is homework?

Homework is work which is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum but not necessarily at home. It does contain an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised or controlled by a teacher and it represents an extension of the learning activities provided and organised in accordance with the objectives of the School curriculum.

Research over a number of years in this and other countries has shown that homework can make an important contribution to pupils' progress at school. Ofsted confirm that,

“many pupils and their parents saw work done at home as a valuable and essential part of school work...”

We at Weston Mill Community Primary School believe that homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education. There is clear evidence that it helps pupils reach higher standards. It also allows more effective use to be made of lesson times and improves pupils' study skills and attitudes to learning. We believe that parents should know what homework their children are expected to do and the support they themselves should give.

Why we feel homework is important.

- *to develop further work habits and independent study skills
- *to develop further self-disciplining and self-motivation attitude to study
- *to practise and reinforce skills learned in the classroom
- *to consolidate and extend work begun in the classroom
- *to enhance study by making greater use of materials and sources of information which may not be available in the classroom (eg visit to the local library)
- *to involve parents (and other adults) in children's work.

Management

The Government believes that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in Key Stage 1 should be designed to take on average, about an hour a week. At key Stage 2 the demands should gradually increase so that by Years 5 and 6 children are spending about 30 minutes a day (two and a half hours a week) on homework.

It will be the role of the school's senior management team to monitor and:-

- *to check for compliance with the policy
- *to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- *to ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- *to ensure the needs of individual pupils are taken into account
- *to improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils
- *at Year 6 to prepare children for transfer to KS3

Differentiation will be tackled through tasks set at different levels or with different materials or goals.

All completed homework will be marked, in ways appropriate to the tasks. The same marking system will be used for homework as for other work set in class.

The Type and Amount of Homework Set

The main focus of homework and home activities for children will focus upon literacy and numeracy. Science and other subjects will be added to the programme as children move up the school without losing the focus on literacy and numeracy.

Tasks set in the Foundation Stage, will have a largely practical focus. Homework could be an activity which will encourage social skills of sharing and co-operation.

In addition to regular literacy and numeracy tasks, older children will be given homework, gradually increasing in its demands, of other kinds. These tasks will be differentiated to take account of individual pupils' needs and might include:

- *finding out information
- *reading in preparation for lessons
- *preparing oral presentations
- *more traditional written assignments

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning.

Some tasks set, may require more than one evening to be completed, in order for information to be collected. However we must ensure we monitor the demands made on pupils so that they are as even and balanced a possible.

All children will be expected to complete their planner daily.

Communication with Parents

To be effective, we at Weston Mill Community Primary recognise that homework needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and school. We must be able to count on parental support for our aims to be achieved. Homework expectation will be clearly outlined in the Home School Agreement. This will help to create and maintain parents' commitment to homework, which is essential if it is to be effective.

In general terms parents and carers should be encouraged to :

- *provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework-alone or, more often for younger children, together with an adult-or help pupils attend other places where homework can be done, such as homework clubs.
- *make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- *encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework
- *as far as possible, parents are encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities with children.

Should homework not be completed by a child, then they will be asked to complete it during a designated time in school. For Key Stage 2 pupils, this

may include attendance at detention sessions with a senior member of staff at lunchtimes. In exceptional circumstances, and with the support of parents, this detention may take place after school.

Agreed by Governors on _____

Chair of Governors signature _____

Date agreed _____