

Wells Primary School

Homework Policy



Signed _____

Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee

Reviewed January 2024

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy is reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents/carers are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents/carers to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

The nature of homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
- The amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
- Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Homework is an integral part of learning and provides opportunities to reinforce what is learned in class. It is also an opportunity to develop independent study and application – and character traits like perseverance.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. More than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task; this will normally incorporate both week days and the weekend to enable children to plan their homework timetable.

The following are recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

Children work at different speeds and parents/carers should use their discretion when their child is completing homework; if they believe that their child has completed enough work, has spent too long on the work, or is finding the work too difficult, then they would be advised to stop and speak to the child's class teacher.

Homework Tasks

Listed below are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is not an exhaustive list and is open to change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will be differentiated to meet the needs of the pupils involved. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development. Some homework may require access to a computer and the internet. Pupils will be provided with logins and passwords for online platforms used by the school to set homework. If children do not have access to a computer, an alternative task will be set or pupils will be able to use the school's computers.

Phase 1 - Foundation Stage

These may include:

- Socialising and talking
- Imaginative play
- Sharing books
- Phonics practice
- Counting tasks
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes.
- Identification of shapes in the environment.
- Fastening and unfastening of buttons and zips.

Year One and Two

These may include:

- Research and creative tasks
- Reading
- Spellings
- English activities
- Maths activities
- Real- life numeracy related problems e.g. weighing and measuring task

Year Three and Four

These may include:

- Reading
- Spellings
- English activities – e.g. comprehension activities; poster designs; advertisement design
- Maths activities – e.g. practising strategies related to learning in class; times-tables practice
- Real- life numeracy related problems e.g. weighing and measuring tasks
- Making tasks – e.g. musical instrument using an empty container and rice/stones
- Learning tasks related to foundation subjects

Year Five and Six

These may include:

- Reading
- Spellings
- English activities – e.g. comprehension activities; grammar and punctuation tasks; writing tasks; poster design
- Maths activities – e.g. practising strategies related to learning in class; times-tables practice
- Real- life numeracy related problems e.g. weighing and measuring tasks; data collection
- Research tasks; presentation preparation
- Making tasks – e.g. designing a game
- Learning tasks related to foundation subjects


Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks with example prompts for maths strategies. To liaise with parents/carers if further explanation is required.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the phase.
- To set homework that is differentiated where appropriate
- To provide resources for pupils where appropriate
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils.
- Where homework is set using an online platform, teachers must ensure pupils have the necessary logins and passwords to access the task and teachers must provide an alternative task to those who do not have access. (Further guidance is available in the Remote Learning policy).

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents and carers when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff and parents and carers how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To inform new parents and carers to the school so that they are aware of the homework policy and what it entails.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.  To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To support their child with homework activities where appropriate, without taking over. It is particularly important, as pupils get older, for them 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.
- To support the school by explaining the value of homework and how it can help learning.

Equal Opportunities

- Our planning ensures that all pupils have equal access to the curriculum regardless of race, gender, religion, language or ability
- We value and support the cultural and linguistic background of all pupils.
- We recognise and respect diversity. We encourage positive images of all, irrespective of culture, ethnicity, religious affiliation, national origin, national status, gender or ability.
- Our policies, procedures and activities are differentiated, as appropriate, to take account of differences of life experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantage which pupils face.

General

- If a child is absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We shall assume that the child is too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how work should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances, the teacher should consult the headteacher.
- In line with our Attendance Policy, holidays are not granted during term time. Therefore holiday homework cannot be set.
- Parents/carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.