



# WHITLEY VILLAGE HOMEWORK POLICY

**Updated:** August 2016  
Mrs H Mansfield

## I. Rationale

*In order for the quality of teaching, learning and assessment to be outstanding: “Teachers set challenging homework...as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.” Ofsted (2015)*

- 1.1 At Whitley Village Primary School we recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so that children can extend and consolidate their learning, whilst still allowing ‘down time’. We believe that learning at home is an important part of good educational provision. We believe that through providing a purposeful and organised homework programme we can develop an effective partnership with parents and carers and involve them directly in their children’s education, sharing achievement and progress. We believe that quality homework not only supports learning in the classroom but also helps to develop successful, independent learning skills and fosters a lifelong positive attitude to learning in our children.
- 1.2 **What is meant by homework?** Homework is any work, or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.

## 2. Aims

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout our school.
- Enhance and reinforce work and learning at our school.
- Help children to develop independent learning strategies.
- Increase the quality and range of learning experiences offered to children.
- Work with parents/carers to develop a shared understanding of the value of homework and how they can support their children with tasks set.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and school to enjoy working in partnership on learning experiences.
- Prepare children for secondary transfer.

## 3. Homework Objectives

3.1 All tasks should:

- Give plenty of opportunities for children to succeed.
- Be enjoyable.
- Be differentiated to match the children’s needs.
- Have a clear, shared focus accompanied with time guidelines.
- Help to develop a range of skills.
- Be manageable for teachers, pupils and Parents/carers.
- Not deprive the children of their vital playtime and enjoyment of other interests.

## **4. Roles**

### **4.1 The Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring the implementation of this policy is consistent and coherent throughout the school.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the policy.
- Ensuring that the policy is reviewed on an annual basis.
- Communicating the policy to parents/carers, staff, pupils and Governors.

### **4.2 The Class Teacher**

The class teacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable and rewarding for pupils.
- Ensuring homework is relevant and consolidates or deepens pupils' learning and understanding.
- Differentiating homework to ensure it is closely matched to the needs of all pupils.
- Ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for parents/carers on a day-to-day basis.
- Providing appropriate feedback to pupils and parents/carers in a timely fashion.

### **4.3 The Parent/carer:**

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which their children can do homework.
- Being actively involved in the homework and encouraging and praising their children when it has been completed.
- Making it clear that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their child's learning.
- Actively hearing children read, questioning them and commenting in their Reading Record to reflect this.
- Communicating in Homework Books when necessary.

### **4.4 The Child:**

The child is responsible for:

- Understanding the value of homework.
- Understanding the necessity to work with their parents/carers at times.
- Always doing their best and completing work on time.
- Fully understanding what they have to do by utilizing the class teacher if unsure.

## **5. Foundation Stage**

- Regular home reading is vital and should be a daily activity for all children throughout Reception, with a minimum of 3 comments/signatures in Reading Records each week. Reading Records provide ideas and support for parents/carers when checking children's comprehension and understanding of their texts.
- Children are given key words to learn and practice at home, at a pace suitable to their development.
- We encourage all our pupils to utilise the online maths software 'Mathletics' from home. This site allows pupils to work through maths activities and tasks at a pace suitable for their stage of learning (which can be controlled by teachers). Pupils will be presented with certificates in Celebration Assembly weekly to acknowledge their hard work and achievements. Pupils who are not able to access this at home will have the opportunity to access Mathletics one lunchtime per week at 'Mathletics Club'.
- Each term, children will be given a 'BIG Question' to complete a Learning Log around. Children can work with parents/carers to create a Learning Log that is personal to them and can be presented in any form the children want (as a scrapbook, as an online scrapbook through the website, as a blog on the website, on paper, in a booklet, published on the computer, etc...) The big question can be interpreted in any way the child wishes and can be of any length. It can be handed in at any point during the term and teachers will respond in a timely fashion. Learning Logs will be shared across the school during the final week of each term.
- The purpose of the Learning Log activity is to encourage pupils to think independently and to have the opportunity to engage with a preferred learning style and form of presentation. Having up to a term (3 months) to complete the Learning Log will allow Parents/carers and pupils to investigate at their own speed and a time suitable to the family (i.e. a little work weekly, or a full day working on it during a half-term break).

## **Years 1, 2 & 3**

- Regular home reading remains vital and should be a daily activity for all children, with a minimum of 3 comments/signatures in Reading Records each week. Reading Records provide ideas and support for parents/carers when checking children's comprehension and understanding of their texts.
- In addition, 1 piece of homework will be set each week, which will usually alternate between English and maths. In Year 1, this should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. In Years 2 and 3, it should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.
- 5 spellings will be set each week, although not in preparation for a spelling test, as evidence shows that this is not an effective way of supporting pupils to apply their spellings in all of their writing. Children will have 5 opportunities to practice their spellings, using a look/cover/write/check approach, and will also write/complete a sentence demonstrating their ability to use the words accurately within sentences. These

can be practiced in a manner that suits each family (i.e. all in one session, or a practice of each word each day).

- Children are provided with a Homework Book in which to complete their tasks.
- Homework will be set on a Thursday, to be handed in the following Tuesday.
- Homework will be marked before it is returned with new homework set.
- Each term, children will be given a 'BIG Question' to complete a Learning Log around. Children can work with parents/carers to create a Learning Log that is personal to them and can be presented in any form the children want (as a scrapbook, as an online scrapbook through the website, as a blog on the website, on paper, in a booklet, published on the computer, etc...) The big question can be interpreted in any way the child wishes and can be of any length. It can be handed in at any point during the term and teachers will respond in a timely fashion. Learning Logs will be shared across the school during the final week of each term.
- The purpose of the Learning Log activity is to encourage pupils to think independently and to have the opportunity to engage with a preferred learning style and form of presentation. Having up to a term (3 months) to complete the Learning Log will allow Parents/carers and pupils to investigate at their own speed and a time suitable to the family (i.e. a little work weekly, or a full day working on it during a half-term break).
- We encourage all our pupils to utilise the online maths software 'Mathletics' from home. This site allows pupils to work through maths activities and tasks at a pace suitable for their stage of learning (which can be controlled by teachers). Pupils will be presented with certificates in Celebration Assembly weekly to acknowledge their hard work and achievements. Pupils who are not able to access this at home will have the opportunity to access Mathletics I lunchtime per week at 'Mathletics Club'.

### **Years 4, 5 & 6**

- Regular home reading remains vital and should be a daily activity for all children, with a minimum of 4 signatures in Reading Records each week. Reading Records provide ideas and support for parents/carers when checking children's comprehension and understanding of their texts.
- In addition, 2 pieces of homework will be set each week, one English based and one maths based. In Year 4, each piece should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. In Years 5 & 6, each piece should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.
- 5 spellings will be set each week, although not in preparation for a spelling test, as evidence shows that this is not an effective way of supporting pupils to apply their spellings in all of their writing. Children will have 5 opportunities to practice their spellings, using a look/cover/write/check approach, and will also write/complete a sentence demonstrating their ability to use the words accurately within sentences. These can be practiced in a manner that suits each family (i.e. all in one session, or a practice of each word each day).
- Children are provided with a Homework Book in which to complete their tasks.

- Homework will be set on a Thursday, to be handed in the following Tuesday.
- Homework will be marked before it is returned with new homework set.
- Each term, children will be given a 'BIG Question' to complete a Learning Log around. Children can work with parents/carers to create a Learning Log that is personal to them and can be presented in any form the children want (as a scrapbook, as an online scrapbook through the website, as a blog on the website, on paper, in a booklet, published on the computer, etc...) The big question can be interpreted in any way the child wishes and can be of any length. It can be handed in at any point during the term and teachers will respond in a timely fashion. Learning Logs will be shared across the school during the final week of each term.
- The purpose of the Learning Log activity is to encourage pupils to think independently and to have the opportunity to engage with a preferred learning style and form of presentation. Having up to a term (3 months) to complete the Learning Log will allow Parents/carers and pupils to investigate at their own speed and a time suitable to the family (i.e. a little work weekly, or a full day working on it during a half-term break).
- Year 6 will receive additional homework, as necessary, in order to prepare them for the end of Key Stage assessments.
- We encourage all our pupils to utilise the online maths software 'Mathletics' from home. This site allows pupils to work through maths activities and tasks at a pace suitable for their stage of learning (which can be controlled by teachers). Pupils will be presented with certificates in Celebration Assembly weekly to acknowledge their hard work and achievements. Pupils who are not able to access this at home will have the opportunity to access Mathletics I lunchtime per week at 'Mathletics Club'.

## **6. Meeting the needs of individual children**

6.1 All homework should be appropriate to the needs of the children. The more able children should be challenged and extended by the tasks. Other children may need to reinforce their skills, but still feel challenged. Children with additional needs will have work appropriately matched to their ability.

## **7. Types of Homework and amount of time to be spent:**

7.1

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
<b>Reception</b>	Learning Log Key words practice (reading & writing of) Reading sessions Mathletics online	Over 1 term As appropriate At least 3 times/week As desired
<b>Years 1, 2 &amp; 3</b>	Learning Log Reading sessions Mathletics online Spellings English <u>or</u> maths activity (Y1: 15 mins, Y2&3: 20 mins)	Over 1 term At least 3 times/week As desired Weekly Weekly
<b>Years 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	Learning Log Reading sessions Mathletics online Spellings English <u>&amp;</u> maths activity (Y4: 15 mins/piece, Y5&6: 20 mins/piece)	Over 1 term At least 4 times/week As desired Weekly Weekly

## **8. Failing to do homework**

- 8.1 It is expected that all children will do the homework set. If a child fails to do their homework they will be requested to complete it in school. If this is a regular occurrence, this will be discussed with parents/carers.
- 8.2 At Whitley Village Primary School, we recognise that not all Parents/carers, through a variety of reasons, are able to support their children in homework activities. School will support sensitively and with understanding, families in this position.

## **9. Sickness**

- 9.1 Children who are sick will not receive homework. However, if after a number of days, a child is recovering but not able to return to school, at the request of the Parent/carer and with the agreement of the class teacher, homework may be sent home.
- 9.2 Long term sickness: Every effort will be made to support children and their families in this position. Priority will be given to maintaining positive and meaningful education in English and maths.

## **10. Review and Evaluation**

The quality of homework tasks set and their relevance in supporting and enhancing learning will be monitored and evaluated termly.

This policy was drawn up in consultation with pupils, Parents/carers, staff and Governors. Staff will review it in line with our Policy Review Cycle, unless there are significant changes and therefore a need to review it sooner