



# HOMESCHOOL POLICY

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## Document Change History

Version	Author	Date	Change Details
2	SW	2017	No changes
3	SW	2019	Removed the appendix
4	SW	2021	Merged two school policies and made reference to Cornerstones
5	SW	2023	Removed expectation of the "meals" and Mathematics. Added reading, phonics and spellings  Adapted expectation of high school homework

**We believe that the range of homework we provide will help pupils develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, lifelong learning.**

*'Homework is important at all stages in a child's education.... It extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect. In this country there is evidence that pupils in the highest achieving schools spend more time on learning activities at home than pupils in other schools.'*  
*OFSTED Annual report.*

We attach great importance to the links that exist between home and school; it is only by working together that we can ensure the best possible education for your child. One important aspect of this joint effort is homework. To be effective homework needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and school. Parents have a key role to play in ensuring their children develop and maintain good homework habits. We believe that pupils can best benefit from the work they bring home if they have full parental support. It is for this reason that this policy outlines our expectations.

The school believes that homework is an essential part of learning. It can contribute very effectively to raising achievement, for the following reasons:

- It encourages pupils to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study.
- It reinforces the learning in the classroom
- It gives pupils an opportunity to work independently, and to take responsibility for their own learning.
- It helps teachers check that pupils have understood class work.
- It can be used to extend work carried out in class.
- It can strengthen the liaison between home and school by increasing parental awareness of what their child is doing at school and giving them the opportunity to become actively involved.
- It allows pupils opportunities to extend their learning in more depth in areas that interest them and so develops their love of learning and independent research skills.
- It prepares pupils for the requirements of secondary school.

## Timing and quantity of homework

The purposes of homework change as children move through the school. For children in KS1, developing a partnership with parents and involving them actively is the main purpose and the activities sent home may not be described as homework. Homework will largely consist of regular reading with parents and looking at books together. Daily reading practice and listening to others read continues to be essential right through primary school. KS1 children may also have a weekly maths challenge or maths game sent home.

## Range of homework tasks

**Phonics and reading:** From Reception we ask that parents read with their child regularly, using the school reading book that comes home. As your child progresses through the school, they will be asked to complete quizzes on the books they have read, through Accelerated Reader. Phonics is an important part of early learning and acquisition of reading skills. Your class teacher may ask you to practise certain phonics with your child to aid their development in this area.

**Spellings:** Class teachers set regular spellings and you will be asked (via Seesaw) to practise these at home with your child.

**Take away Tasks:** During Key Stage 2 your child will come home each half term with a range of Take Away tasks. These are a variety of tasks covering different subject areas. They are intended to appeal to different learning styles. Pupils can select from a wide range of projects. We hope these will give the children a much greater sense of ownership of their learning and allow them to develop independent learning skills. You are encouraged to provide feedback on how your child has found each task on a review form which can be downloaded from the school website.

**Literacy and Numeracy Tasks:** Sometimes it may be beneficial to you or to your child for the class teacher to send some additional work home, linked to English or Maths. This work may be to challenge your child or to support them with something they found difficult in class.

**Times Tables Rockstars:** As a school we have purchased a login for every child from Year 1. Your child's username and password should be in their reading journals. If not, please speak to the school office. Your child's class teacher will set tasks on Mathematics relating to the learning that is taking place in the class. Your child can challenge themselves against their peers or other children across the world! Times Tables Rockstars is an excellent resource. The teachers set challenges and times table for the children to practise and each half term a Rockstar Superstar will be nominated.

We aim to prepare pupils for the transition to secondary school where the expectation in year 7 is that they will be spending approximately half an hour per subject, each week on homework. It is important that pupils should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to study on their own. We want the transition to secondary school to be as smooth as possible.

**We aim to:**

- Offer carefully planned and structured homework to support progression in learning;
- Offer consistent practice across the school in setting, managing and marking homework;
- Offer a regular programme so that teachers, children and parents know what to expect each week;
- Ensure pupils and parents are very clear about what they need to do;
- Ensure parents are treated as partners in their children's learning;
- Have high expectations of pupils completing homework;
- Ensure pupils receive prompt, clear feedback on their work;
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work/learn together and to enjoy learning experiences.

Children can attend a homework club during lunchtimes, class teachers will make the necessary arrangements. Pupils can also request access to the computing equipment during lunchtimes, by prior arrangement with their class teacher.

**The role parents and carers in supporting children**

- Encourage children to carry out homework tasks in quiet places away from distractions whenever possible.
- Support them to plan and organise time so tasks are not left until the last minute.
- Make it clear to your child that you value homework, and support the school by explaining how it can help their learning.
- Become actively involved in homework activities with your child, especially with younger pupils. The Take Away Tasks provide an ideal opportunity to do this.
- Encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework.

The homework policy will be monitored and evaluated to ensure we are supporting pupil's learning in the best possible way.