

White Laith Primary School

Homework Policy

Agreed by Governors: June 2016

Review Date: June 2019

Safeguarding

At White Laith we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Ensuring good behaviour is particularly important for this. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by or invited to deliver services at White Laith. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

We also exercise this responsibility by educating our children so that they grow in their understanding of their rights and responsibilities to themselves and others, in safety consciousness, and, in their maturity and abilities to keep themselves and others safe.

We perceive this to be part of our role in promoting British values

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper 'Excellence in Schools', in which homework was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;

- to consolidate and reinforce the 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

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

Children in Foundation Stage will initially have packs of words and then phrases to practice at home before taking reading books home

All children have a reading book and children are encouraged to read at home every day. Children and parents record this in a Reading Diary. In KS1 and KS2 children change their books independently. Reading diaries are checked in school throughout the week to encourage regular reading and reward thoughtful comments.

Children in KS1 and 2 also have weekly spellings to learn and these are tested each week.

We use **Learning Logs** to record all of our homework. Using a Learning Log is something that we encourage parents to do with their child and the purpose is to involve pupils in taking greater responsibility for their learning.

The children bring their Learning Log home on **Friday** each week to be returned by **Wednesday**. Each week the class teacher will set an open-ended task for the children to do.

Examples of tasks may include

- Show me what you know about forces.
- We have been looking at 3D shapes this week.
- Can you find examples of 3D shapes in your home?
- Design a book cover for the adventure story we have been writing this week.
- Show me what you understand about multiplying 1 and 2 digit numbers.
- What do you know about solids and liquids?

The children can use one or two pages in the log and record their ideas in their own way. The children can be as creative as they like when completing the learning. They can draw, write, make lists, cut and stick pictures or information found in magazines or on the internet, search for information in the library, design their own experiments and take photographs and stick them in....the list is endless!

Parents are encouraged to help by ensuring children have time and space to work without distractions. Parents are encouraged to talk with their child about their learning log each week and offer ideas about what could go in it. Children should be encouraged to think about what they have found interesting and independently create their homework. There is no right or wrong way to complete the log -the only rule is that learning should be well presented.

There will be time set aside in class each week for children to share their logs with each other and this is when marking and feedback will take place. Learning Log homework is celebrated in class and children are expected to critique their own and others work. Work will be marked with a smiley face or stamper as most feedback is verbal. Occasionally adults may write comments/reminders in addition. There may well be no right or wrong answers and feedback will be given based on effort, interesting ideas, presentation and quality of learning. Occasionally adults may write comments/reminders if they feel homework could be improved.

Our aim is that by working in this way children will begin to take ownership of their learning and develop a sense of pride.

Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers 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.

We ask parents and carers to check the reading diary daily if possible, and to sign it as requested.

We welcome feedback from parents and request this formally at least once per year.

Learning Logs are displayed in the Hall during Parent Consultation Evening (October and February/March) so that all learning can be shared and celebrated.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the governing body.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to some sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

In particular we want our children to use Mathletics, TTRockstars, Purple Mash and Lexia (for some pupils) every week. All children should know their passwords and they will be stuck in the front of the child's reading diary and updated as appropriate.

Children and parents are able to email work to their class email address to be shared in school.

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. The governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our Headteacher a report on the way in which homework is organised in our school.

This policy will be reviewed in three years, or earlier if necessary.