

White Laith Primary School

Homework Policy

Agreed by Governors: September 2021

amended September 2022

Review Date:

September 2024

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.

Reading:

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 which they take home each week -the children are encouraged to read at home every day and children and parents record this in a Reading Diary. Reading diaries are checked weekly in school to encourage regular reading and reward thoughtful comments.

Spelling:

Children in KS1 and 2 also have weekly spellings to learn and these are tested each week. Children can practice these with parents and they can also use Spelling Shed to practice them online.

Maths:

Children are encouraged to make good use of their Mathletics and TT Rocks accounts to practice and consolidate learning including quick recall of times table facts.

Wider Curriculum:

Class teachers will post additional PSHE, Mindmate and active learning tasks and prompts relating to their current topic on Class Dojo

Independent Projects:

Children will take home their current Topic Knowledge organizer and a suggested activity sheet. Children are encouraged to complete a range of activities over the term in order to extend and broaden their knowledge and skills.

Procedure

Monday:

Class teacher will post instructions for the week's homework on Class Dojo. Children will be signposted to on-line resources (including Spelling Shed, Mathletics, TTRockstars, Purple Mash and Lexia) and will be expected to spend some time completing tasks set or exploring the games within the programme. Children will also be reminded to make a special effort when completing their reading diary task.

Monday: Children should return their Book Bag to school. Class staff will change reading books and check reading diaries ready for children to take home on Tuesday.

Independent Projects:

Children will be given an exercise book which they can use to record any independent project work. Children should keep these books in their Book bags so that they do not get lost!

At the beginning of each half term (or at the beginning of a new topic whichever is most appropriate) children will stick the topic Knowledge Organiser and suggested task/activity sheet into their book.

Children are encouraged to complete a number of these activities over the term.

Children will bring the exercise book to school every Monday with their reading diary. If the children would like to share their task with the class they will be given the opportunity to do so.

Excellent examples may be shared in Celebration Assembly.

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 tasks each week and encourage children to complete them to the best of their ability.

Marking and feedback

Homework is not 'marked' in the traditional sense.

There will be time set aside in class during the week for the class teacher to share 'leader boards' and to reward children for completion and effort. The teacher will also share good examples of reading diaries and reward children who are reading regularly.

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, by reading with their child everyday and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents and carers to update the reading diary daily and discuss written comments with their child.

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 on-line resources 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.

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 Spelling Shed, 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 upload work via the child's individual portfolio in Dojo, by posting in a Purple Mash account or by email work to their class teacher 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.