



# Stocksfield Avenue Primary School

## Homework Policy



This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies with regard to the use of homework at Stocksfield Avenue Primary School. It should be read in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning policy.

### **Introduction**

Parents are a child's first teacher and play a crucial role in helping them learn. Children achieve more when schools and parents work together. Homework is considered to be a valuable element of the teaching and learning process and children are encouraged to work at home on a regular basis. However, it must be remembered that children have worked very hard at their lessons and many of them, particularly the younger ones, will be tired at the end of the school day. Expecting them to tackle large amounts of homework in the evening would not be appropriate, therefore the amount and type of homework set will vary according to the age of the child.

### **Homework will be:**

- Manageable within a reasonable time frame;
- Challenging and purposeful;
- Recognised and valued by teachers and parents;
- Recognised as being important by the pupil;

### **The purposes of homework:**

- To encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study effectively on their own.
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding developed at school, particularly in English and Maths
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To extend school learning, for example, through additional reading or research.
- To make use of resources for learning which are available at home e.g. adult support, reference books, computers.

**At Foundation Stage** (Reception) the key purpose is learning together. The activities are mainly English based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home. Children will have:

- Sound Books sent home weekly;
- As the year progresses, Reading Books sent home each night, changed weekly;
- Spellings and Rocket Words sent home from Spring Term;
- A Home-School Maths Diary sent home weekly;
- Parents will be asked to contribute to their child's Learning Journal, which can now be accessed on-line.

**At Key Stage 1** (Years 1 and 2) the key purpose is the development of a partnership between the school and parents and the active involvement of parents in their children's learning.

- Reading books will be sent home every night - children are asked to read at least 3 times a week for 10 minutes.
- Maths homework, including maths facts and basic skills.
- A Home-School Reading Diary will be sent home every night.
- 10 spellings will be sent home on a Friday.
- Rocket / Common Exception Words (CEW) tested when ready.

**At Key Stage 2** (Years 3-6) the main purpose increasingly becomes an opportunity for pupils to develop the skills of independent learning.

- Reading books will be sent home every night and must be returned the following day.
- Spellings and tables are very important and time should be spent learning these each week. The children are tested weekly.
- Grammar (SPAG).
- Maths homework, including maths facts and basic skills

Please note: As they approach SATs, children in Year 6 may be given more homework if it is felt it will support their learning.

### **What is the role of the school?**

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.

### **What is the role of the teacher?**

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

### **What is the role of the parent?**

- To display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance.
- To recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work.
- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

### **What is the role of the child?**

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

### **Children with Special Education Needs**

Children with Special Education Needs (SEN) are not isolated from their class group by not being given homework. It is equally important that homework tasks are set appropriately for children with SEN. Such children may benefit from separate tasks from the rest of the group. The class teacher and SENCO will work with parents to ensure that homework tasks meet the needs of pupils with SEN.

### **Parental Support**

It is hoped that parents will give their active support to the Homework Policy. Staff will talk to parents about Homework at the start of the year meeting, plus all parents will receive a Homework Guide at the beginning of the term. Both the Homework Policy and Homework Guide can be found on the website. Parents are welcome to discuss homework issues informally, or at parents' evenings.

Parents can help their children by:

- Listening to them read or by reading to them;
- Asking them if they have other homework to do;
- Encouraging them to work in a comfortable and quiet area of the house;
- Asking to look at the finished work and by being positive in their praise;
- Acknowledging the effort that their children have made by initialling a reading record, a tables/spelling book or other piece of work.

### **Timing of tasks**

We know that children are tired at the end of the school day, and that primary school pupils have commitments in the evening e.g. Brownies, Karate etc. We also know that children work at different speeds and so hope that parents will use discretion to ensure that the time spent by their child is reasonable. For these reasons, the homework set will be spread over a week and need not be completed on any one day. The school does not expect children to work for unreasonable amounts of time to complete homework tasks. If a child is finding a task difficult, and has tried their best, parents should indicate this on the work. If a parent or child is unsure of the homework task, they should ask their class teacher for clarification as soon as possible.

**In Foundation Stage** most individual homework tasks should take 10 minutes.

**In Key Stage 1** most individual homework tasks should take 10-15 minutes.

**In Key Stage 2** most individual homework tasks should take 30-40 minutes.

The child should always attempt to complete the task in the given time as these guidelines are intended to avoid homework becoming laborious.

### **What about children who don't complete homework?**

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to parents to find out why. There may be occasions when a child will miss playtime or some of a lunch time if they have not completed homework.

### **Homework Club**

From September 2016, school has been running a Homework Club. A Homework Club will offer a place for your child to work in a supportive environment out of school hours; it will also allow children to get their homework done, but without the family frictions that can often arise at home, along with so many other distractions. Parents can enquire about homework club by contacting the class teacher, or the idea might be suggested to parents themselves.

### **Feedback on Homework**

It is important that all homework tasks should be effectively marked and feedback given to the pupil. The support and praise of parents when work is completed at home is a vital, initial part of that feedback. However, the setting and marking of homework can place a significant extra burden on teachers and so tasks will be devised to ensure that the amount and the

timing of the marking required is manageable. Not all homework will be formally marked; it may be marked together in a class or group.

**Our homework policy:**

- Ensures consistency of approach throughout the school;
- Ensures progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- Ensures the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- Ensures parents/guardians have a clear understanding of what is expected of them and their child;
- Improves the quality of learning experience offered to pupils;
- Extends and supports the learning experience via reinforcement and revision;
- Provides opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- Provides opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences; encourages children to develop long term strategies for future needs;
- Prepares children for Secondary transfer at Year 6.

*Person Responsible: Full staff*

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