

Wyke Primary School

HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, (in response to guidance from school) that contributes to their learning. It encompasses a whole variety of activities whereby children benefit from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and school.

Objectives

The objectives of homework are:

- ◆ To enable pupils to make further progress in their academic and social development
- ◆ To develop the skills of an independent learner
- ◆ To promote home/school partnership
- ◆ To consolidate and reinforce learning in school
- ◆ To help children develop good work habits for the future

Homework Guidelines

Government guidelines include recommended time allocations for homework.

Years 1 and 2	1 hour/week
Years 3 and 4	1½ hours/week
Years 5 and 6	½ hour/day

The guidelines reinforce our commitment to children reading regularly. "Regular reading is vital. For children at Key Stage 1, homework should very largely consist of regular reading with parents or carers, looking at books together. Reading practice and listening to others read then continues to be essential right through primary school."

The document also places emphasis on the important role parents play: "Again, homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, which is most valuable in promoting children's learning.

Our policy has always been to encourage regular daily reading. We often find that as children become more fluent and able to read to themselves, parental involvement tails off. Even the most fluent readers need to talk about the books they read, be encouraged to give opinions, describe the story, characters etc. Opportunities to encourage reading at home, throughout the school, should be fully exploited.

At Key Stage 1 and in Years 3 and 4, we believe our policy of regular reading, together with learning of spellings, number facts and tables and the occasional piece of research, more than satisfies the requirements.

We still firmly believe that children need some time to relax and pursue outside interests such as Brownies, Cubs, sport etc. We, therefore, do not set homework one day to be handed in the next. In Years 5 and 6, in addition to regular reading and the tasks outlined above, more formal homework will be set on a regular basis. Pupils may be given a piece of maths work to be handed in the following week and/or given some research to carry out over a period of time. This homework may not

always require a written response; it may for example require learning by heart or involve an oral presentation to the class and/or teacher.

We are very aware that parents have a range of views concerning homework. Some feel it inappropriate for a primary school and others feel formal homework should be set every night. We hope that the work the children do at home does not become too burdensome for children or parents. At the same time, we hope that the tasks set will give those pupils who want to take the work further, the opportunity to do so.

If parents have any problems or 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 it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

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. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to the Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

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