



North Wolds Federation

Homework Policy

March 2016

We consider homework to be anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is a key way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We believe children develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

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 a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce 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 and amount of homework

We may set a variety of homework activities including:

- reading with an adult / independently
- games to practice mathematical skills
- preparing a presentation to the class
- finding out information – research
- making things
- simple scientific experiments
- cooking
- spelling rules and investigations

Amount of Homework.

We increase the amount of homework we expect children to undertake as they get older.

Years 1 and 2: one hour per week

Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day

Homework Organisation

In response to parental requests we have standardised the days our homework comes in and out in order to help. In our school homework is set on **Thursday** and should be returned on **Monday**.

The provision of homework is the responsibility of individual teachers however a weekly guide would be.

R,1,2	3,4	5,6
Phonics/spelling (15 minutes)	Phonics/Spelling (20 Minutes)	Phonics/Spelling (30 minutes)
Reading (15 minutes)	Reading (20 Minutes)	Reading (30 Minutes)
Literacy/Numeracy (20 minutes)	Literacy (20 Minutes)	Literacy (30 Minutes)
Talk Homework (10 Minutes)	Numeracy (20 minutes)	Numeracy (30 Minutes)
	Talk Homework (10 Minutes)	Talk Homework (10 Minutes)

Homework will usually be differentiated to allow the learning to be appropriate to each child.

During holidays topic based homework will be set. This will be more project based allowing children more autonomy in choosing the direction of the task.

In addition to this, our termly curriculum newsletters will include examples of open ended tasks that parents can do with their children linked to their overarching topic.

Homework will always be done in homework books.

Guide Times

In order to help parents gauge how long a piece of homework will take guide times will be written on the work. Children are not expected to spend longer on a piece of work than the guide unless they wish to.

Marking and Feedback

All homework will be marked and feedback given. This may not always happen through written comments from the teacher. Sometimes homework will be discussed in lessons or written feedback may be provided only on certain aspects of a child's homework.

If a child's homework is handed in late it may not be possible for that piece of work to be marked.

Parent communication

All children will have a homework book where activities are to be completed and parents and teachers can make any relevant comments. Key Stage 1 children will have small lined and blank page books and Key Stage 2 children will have a lined and blank page A4 book. Children may also have task sheets which will be stuck in homework books. Teachers will endeavour to respond to parent comments made in the homework books or on the task sheets.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

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).

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set and encourage children to become independent in their learning as they get older. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented parents should contact the head teacher.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Parents and children's views about homework will be sought on annual basis through questionnaires and meetings.

Signed:

Date: