St White's Primary School

Homework and Home Learning Policy

Date of Review: December 2017

Date of Next Review: December 2019

Signed, Chair of Governors:

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Children at St White's School say that homework is up-skilling them for life.

St White's Primary School Homework Policy

1. Introduction

The homework set by teachers at St White's School will be both challenging and purposeful. It is appropriate for the age and stage of a child, consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares children for future study. The policy has been written to reflect to reflect the views of parents, pupils, staff and governors.

2. Rationale for Homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The school sees homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of setting homework is for children to develop as independent learners. In addition, some homework tasks give valuable opportunities for parents/carers to spend quality time with children completing focused tasks.

The school believes that homework plays an essential role in raising a child's level of achievement. However, the school also acknowledges 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 participating in activities such as out-of-school clubs as these are just as important in the lives of children. The school is well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and believes that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3. Aims and Objectives

The school recognises how important it is to ensure that all homework set, is purposeful and achievable and that parents know what the expectations are. The school knows that providing resources, where required is really important so that every child has an equal opportunity to complete activities with the same degree of success as their class mates.

The homework set will support the development of 'the basics' in English and mathematics, including reading, spellings and number fluency in accordance with your child's age and ability. This will ensure that they have the opportunity to develop effective learning strategies.

The school will provide parents and their children with guidance and support so that homework activities can be completed successfully.

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To help children develop the skills of an independent learner.

• To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
• To enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently.
• To provide educational experiences not possible in school.
• To consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons.
• To help children develop a strong work ethic for the future.

4 Types of Homework

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

These are the main types of homework set at St White's School:

4.1 Daily reading homework designed to foster a love of reading and improve the reading skills of all children.

4.2 Weekly homework focusing on children's guided reading novels. This homework is designed to aid the development of reading comprehension so that children are able to discuss and form opinions, thus deepening their understanding of what they are reading.

4.3 Spelling homework which is designed to build on learning completed in class.

4.3.1 In KS1, this will include spelling lists.

4.3.2 In KS2 this will include spelling lists and words from vocabulary lists which are assessed through dictations.

4.4 Mathematics homework which is designed to build on learning in class and give children the opportunity to revise mathematical concepts learned previously.

4.5 Multiplication tables that need to be learned to meet the National Curriculum expectations. By the end of Y4 all children should be able to rapidly recall all their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12. Year group expectations are:

4.5.1 By the end of Y2, children should know the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables.

4.5.2 By the end of Y3, children should know the 3, 4 and 5 multiplication tables.

4.5.3 By the end of Y4, children should know the 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 multiplication tables.

4.6 Power Projects, which are topic based. These provide a variety of different types of activity that cater for different learning styles, from which children can choose. There are topic celebrations three times a year where Power Project homework is shared with peers and parents/carers. Teachers ensure that the Power Projects are up-to-date, appropriate for the age and stage of the children, consolidate learning, deepen understanding and prepare the children very well for future study.

5. Homework Expectations

All teachers have high expectations that the children in their classes will complete the homework that has been set. Teachers will use this policy as a guide to develop their own strategies to meet

the individual needs of the children within their classes. The homework expectations for each phase are as follows:

5.1 Foundation Stage Homework

In Foundation Stage, teachers ask parents/carers to support their child through home learning that includes:

- Weekly phonics homework.
- Daily reading, which in the early stages can involve talking about the pictures and teaching them to enjoy turning the pages. The school also believes that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading, as is your child reading to you or to their teachers.
- If homework is not completed:
    - The first time, a sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary, informing parents that homework has not been done.
    - The second time, a second sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary, informing parents that homework has not been done.
    - When homework is missed for a third time in a term, a third sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary and a letter will be sent home inviting parents in to meet with the class teacher and a member of SLT.

5.2 Key Stage 1 Homework

In Key Stage 1, teachers ask parents to support their child through home learning that includes:

- Daily reading for approximately fifteen minutes. Parents are reminded that this can include sharing books and reading to their child. This is to encourage children to read for pleasure and to increase their skills base.
- Weekly spelling homework.
- Weekly maths homework.
- Weekly learning of multiplication tables.
- Power Projects.
- Homework set in Y2 as a means of helping the children to revise for the National examinations at the end of KS1.
- Practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money, telling the time and familiarising children with measures are of great value. The school encourages parents to spend free time with their children sharing activities, for example cooking, painting and dressing up.
- Talking about or researching a topic at home prior to studying it in school. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet.
- Discussing school learning with children at home to consolidate and celebrate achievement.
- If homework is not completed:

- The first time, a sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary, informing parents that homework has not been done.
- The second time, a second sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary, informing parents that homework has not been done.
- When homework is missed for a third time in a term, a third sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary and a letter will be sent home inviting parents/carers in to meet with the class teacher and a member of SLT. In this meeting, parents/carers will be offered the opportunity for their child to attend the weekly homework club.

5.3 Key Stage 2 Homework

At Key Stage 2, teachers continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined for Key Stage 1, including:

- Daily reading and completing reading activities linked to their reading book. This is to encourage children to read for pleasure and to increase their skills base.
- Weekly spelling homework.
- Weekly maths homework.
- Weekly guided reading homework.
- Power Projects.
- Homework in UKS2 as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations at the end of KS2.
- Practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money, telling the time and familiarising children with measures are of great value. The school encourages parents to spend free time with their children sharing activities, for example cooking and painting.
- Talking about or researching a topic at home prior to studying it in school. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet.
- Discussing school learning with children at home to consolidate and celebrate achievement.

What Happens if Homework is Not Completed in Key Stage Two

If homework is not completed, KS2 children will be required to finish their homework in school, at lunchtime, so that they have every opportunity to avoid falling behind. This applies to all children regardless of whether they have missed completing one piece of homework or numerous pieces of homework as teachers consider every piece set as equally important.

When homework is not completed:

- The first time, a sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary, informing parents that homework has not been done.
- The second time, a second sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary, informing parents that homework has not been done.
- When homework is missed for a third time in a term, a third sticker will be placed in the child's homework diary and a letter will be sent home inviting parents in to meet

with the class teacher and a member of SLT. At this meeting, parents will be offered the opportunity for their child to attend the weekly homework club.

6. Assessment of Homework

- Homework is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either assessed (spellings or multiplication tables), marked or used in class to support learning.
- Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised through the use of certificates awarded at topic celebration afternoons.
- Mathematics homework is expected to be marked at home following completion and teachers use lesson time to address any misconceptions.
- The school recognises that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others prefer a particular approach. For this reason, the school's topic homework incorporates many different approaches to learning and children can choose which they prefer.

7. Amount of Homework

As they move through the school, the amount of homework increases for children. As a minimum, the school expects that in:

- Reception and Key Stage 1, children will spend at least one hour a week on homework activities.
- Years 3 and 4, children will spend at least one and a half hours on homework activities per week.
- Years 5 and 6, children will spend at least two hours a week on homework activities.

8. Inclusion and Homework

The school sets homework for all children as a normal part of school life. The school ensures that:

- All tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and are adapted, if needs be, so that all children can contribute in a positive way.
- When setting homework for a child who is named on the register of Special Educational Needs, the school refers to that child's My Plan or My Plan Plus.
- The school values and celebrates the cultural diversity of our children and their families, and appreciates the enrichment that this brings.
- The completion of homework may rely on resources being used, especially when completing topic homework. If resources are needed, such as paper or a small pot of glue or paint, the school is very happy to provide them.

9. The Role of Parents/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/carers to:

- Encourage their children to complete the homework tasks that are set.
- Help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary.
- Provide their children with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.
- Support their children by providing a good working space at home.

- Enable their children to visit the library regularly and/or use the internet as required.
- Discuss the work that their children is doing.

Ideally parents should:

- Read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence.
- Sign their child's Homework Diary weekly to show that they have heard their child read, discussed their books with them and that their child has completed homework other than reading.

10. Homework Clubs

The school understands that for some parents, supporting their children with homework or providing them with a quiet space to concentrate and complete the tasks set can be challenging. For this reason the school has homework clubs for KS1 and KS2 where children can be supported with some of their homework. These clubs are weekly. They are not intended to replace daily reading which must take place at home.

11. Issues Arising From Homework

Homework is seen in part as a preparation for the more independent learning undertaken at secondary school.

Sometimes, however, homework generates questions for parents. If this happens parents/carers should:

11.1 Record any queries, questions or concerns in the Homework Diary. The teacher will respond to these matters either in the Homework Diary, or by speaking to the parent/carer directly at the beginning or end of the day, or by telephoning. All homework diaries are taken in by teachers, to be checked and signed, once a week.

11.2 If concerns continue, contact the child's class teacher by speaking to them at the beginning or end of the school day.

11.3 If they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, contact the Headteacher according to the school's Complaints Policy.

12. Use of ICT

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

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, teachers expect their children 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 copying, pasting 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.

We discourage children from bringing computer disks or memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is e-mailed to the teacher at school.

13. Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the school's governing body to agree and then monitor the homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. The school's homework policy is reviewed regularly by the Headteacher in consultation with the Senior Leadership team, governors, teaching staff, parents and children.