

SCHOOL POLICY FOR HOMEWORK

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of the setting of homework in our school.
- 1.2. This policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.
- 1.3. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff.

2. Aims

The aim of this policy is:

- To establish an agreed range of practice in the setting of homework throughout the school.

3. The Purposes of Homework

- To develop an effective partnership between the schools and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy;
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading;
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing for the demands of secondary school.

4. General Guidance

4.1. From the earliest years, children should be encouraged to be responsible for their own homework.

4.2. Homework activities should be purposeful and closely linked to teaching and learning intentions in school.

4.3. As far as possible, homework activities should be set according to a weekly schedule. A familiar routine is helpful for children, parents and teachers.

4.4. Homework activities should be differentiated according to ability. Some activities, especially in Science and topic work, may be differentiated by expectation.

4.5. Homework should be marked regularly and in accordance with the school's Marking Policy. Children should be given feedback on their homework as soon as possible.

4.6. It is not the school's policy to set homework for children taking holidays during term time.

5. Time Allocations

Homework at Uffington School is set in accordance with guidance from the Department for Education. The recommended time allocations for homework are as follows:

- Years R, 1 and 2 – one hour a week
- Years 3 and 4 – one and a half hours a week
- Years 5 and 6 – thirty minutes a day

6. Reading Homework

Regular reading is vital. For children in the infants, homework largely consists of reading but it is expected that regular home reading will continue throughout the school. All children are expected to take their reading book home every day and complete some reading each night either on their own or with an adult. A Reading Diary is provided to keep a record of reading at home and parents are encouraged to sign the diary, making a comment if they so wish, to show that reading homework has been completed.

In addition to individual reading, children in Key Stage 2 may be asked to prepare a given piece for their weekly Guided Reading session.

Children in Key Stage 1 may be asked to complete activities to support their work in Guided Reading.

7. Spelling Homework

In the Foundation Stage children are asked to complete an activity to support their learning of phonics. This work is recorded in their Letters and Sounds Books.

In Key Stage 1, a spelling list is given and tested on a weekly basis.

In Key Stage 2, a spelling list linked to class activities is given for children to learn at home. The children are then given a spelling test in school.

8. Writing

Children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 may be asked to complete a writing task during the holidays.

In Key Stage 2, children are asked to complete a task linked to either their Guided Reading or Guided Writing (usually alternate weeks). This work is completed in their 'Writer's Toolkit'.

9. Mathematics

In the Foundation Stage suggestions for activities to support learning in mathematics are given on a weekly basis.

From time to time, children in Key Stage 1 are given homework activities to consolidate number processes.

In Key Stage 2, children are given a weekly homework activity.

10. Science

In Key Stage 2, children are given homework activities when appropriate.

11. Other Homework

Occasionally, children are asked to do additional pieces of work to support current curriculum themes, e.g. topic research, diaries, surveys and work linked to individual learning programmes.

12. Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

All parents are asked to sign a Home-School Agreement when their children are admitted to school. The agreement requires parents to provide support and guidance for homework.

The setting of homework is explained at the annual Curriculum Meetings held at the beginning of each academic year. All parents and carers are provided with a pack including information about homework and suggestions for helping children at home.

13. Review

The Headteacher and staff will review this policy biennially. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Governing Body at their first meeting following review.

Last reviewed September 2012