

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School



Homework policy

March 2019

St John's Upper Holloway C of E Primary School

Policy on Homework

Date: March 2019

Review Date: March 2020

Our Vision

Jesus said: 'Love each other as I have loved you'. John 15:12

As we are loved, so we shall love.

As we are taught, so we shall teach.

As we are nurtured, so we shall flourish.

Our Mission

St John's is a small, caring Church of England Primary School. It is committed to supporting our pupils to be happy, successful and fulfilled throughout their lives. We believe that everyone is unique and valued by God. We aspire to be a high achieving school that provides an outstanding education:

- promoting the highest standards of teaching and learning, with excellent leadership
- being inclusive, celebrating diversity and valuing all religions, faiths, cultures and backgrounds
- providing a rich and stimulating curriculum that will inspire and challenge
- being a happy, healthy and safe place
- providing excellent care, guidance and support with a strong partnership between school, parents and the community.

We seek to promote six Christian values of creativity, thankfulness, truthfulness, friendship, perseverance and courage, each linked by our core value of love. We believe these help to prepare our children for a successful and fulfilling life, so being:

- considerate and respectful with excellent manners
- confident, happy, independent and self-motivated
- co-operative and collaborative
- honest and trustworthy
- resilient, hardworking and determined
- highly principled with moral, spiritual, cultural and social awareness, including shared British Values.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that 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 the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 2.2 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 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 cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
 - to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
 - 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 good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

Appendix 1 shows what homework is set in each class each week and when it is collected back in and marked. We aim to ensure work set is differentiated to match the ability levels of the children in each class.

5 The role of parents

- 5.1 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. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to 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, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing, including supporting them with the skills of working independently. .
- 5.2 If parents have any 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 in which it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

6 Use of ICT

- 6.1 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, our teachers expect their pupils to 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 merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.
- 6.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.
- 6.3 Some of the most important educational software that we use in school can be bought by parents on a home-user licence. This ensures that children are using age-appropriate software in their work at home. The school will supply interested parents with details.

7 Monitoring and review

- 7.1 The leadership team monitor and review samples of children's homework and teachers' planning.
- 7.2 It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection,
- 7.3 This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

Signed by Headteacher _____ date _____

Signed by chair of CSW committee _____ date _____

Appendix 1

St John's homework guidelines



Timings:

Homework is given **out every Friday** and must be returned either **on or before the following Wednesday**. This gives class teachers time to thoroughly look at and mark each child's homework.

Spellings and/or times tables are tested every Wednesday, once homework has been handed in.

Storage:

From Reception class upwards, homework goes home in a specific homework folder. This folder is then handed in to the teacher ***every WEDNESDAY*** to be marked. New homework will be placed on top of the previous homework – this is so that parents can see comments and marking that the teacher has done.

Differentiation:

Although there is consistency in what homework is given out each week, class teachers will ensure that this is differentiated to meet the needs of their children.

Completion:

All homework will be completed to a high standard. Children may use either pencil or Berol pen to complete their homework, depending on what they use in class.

Marking:

- Once spelling tests have been marked (every Weds), the class teacher will keep a record of these results in either the blue planning file or in the blue record book.
- Homework that has been handed in on time (on or by the following Wednesday) will be marked by the class teacher. This will include work being ticked and also a written comment.
- Homework that is not handed in on time will be acknowledged by a tick and the class teacher's initials.

NB: class teachers are to use their discretion as to whether there is a valid reason for homework being late. If it is thought there is a valid reason, then homework may still be marked.

Communication:

Teachers will ensure that either clear instructions for homework are included in the homework book itself, or that clear instructions are included on any homework sheets given (these sheets will then be tucked inside the homework book).

Parents are encouraged to write a brief comment on their child's homework as to how their child coped, anything they found difficult/ easy and how much adult support they received (if any).

Spellings

It is important that spellings are practised in a context, such as writing them in a sentence or finding them in a word search. This is a specific sheet and will be consistent each week. The sheet will be included in the child's homework folder.

Content:

Nursery	Parents choose a book from the library with their child each Tuesday and a maths game each Thursday. Children receive a reading book to take home when they are ready.
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A book for sharing or reading independently • 1 adult-led shared activity • Reading then spellings of high frequency words • Phonics task
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A book for sharing and/or an independent reading book • A maths activity • A literacy activity Children have a laminated handwriting sheet to be practised at home.
Year2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent reading book • Spelling sheet of up to 10 words • A maths activity • A Nelson handwriting sheet • One activity or task related to either a topic, science or literacy*
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent reading book • Spelling sheet of up to 10 words • A maths activity • A Nelson handwriting sheet • One activity or task related to either a topic, science or literacy*
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent reading book • Spelling sheet of up to 10 words • A maths activity • A Nelson handwriting sheet • One activity or task related to either a topic, science or literacy*
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent reading book • Spelling sheet of up to 10 words • A maths activity • A literacy task • A grammar or reading comprehension task alternate weeks • A topic homework task each half term
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent reading book • Spelling sheet of up to 10 words • A maths activity • A literacy task • A grammar or reading comprehension task alternate weeks • A topic homework task each half term

Reading Children are still required to read at home every day and the adult complete a comment in their yellow reading record book. They should bring their school book bags in every day, so that an adult can hear them read when appropriate.