

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School



Homework policy

March 2021

St John's Upper Holloway C of E Primary School

Policy on Homework

Date: March 2021

Review Date: March 2023

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. This policy has taken into account feedback from parents through a parent homework survey.

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 always possible in school;
 - to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons i.e. to make greater progress with their learning by 'knowing more and doing more';
 - to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Homework coverage across each key stage

Homework in Early Years

In line with the rest of the school homework is set on Friday and needs to be handed in on Wednesday. Reading should be done daily and parents/ carers are asked to write a comment in their reading record book regularly (most days). Each child receives a de-codeable book as well as a 'real book' each week and these are changed every Friday. Phonics homework is set on Seesaw and linked to the sounds the children have been learning about in the classroom. Writing homework is set on Seesaw and needs to be completed by the children in their homework books. Reception class children need to complete 10 minutes of Doodlemaths each day and stay in the green zone. Doodlemaths extras are set on Friday and are linked to the learning that has taken place in the classroom.

Homework in Years 1 to 6

- **Homework is set weekly on a Friday via Seesaw and needs to be submitted by the following Wednesday.** Children have a homework book to record their work in and this contains key information such as log-in details and passwords for the various online sites they need to access .
- Maths homework will alternate weekly with one week being paper based and the alternate week being online. When children are given paper-based maths tasks, these will link to what has been taught that week and will include questions related to reasoning and fluency. The online maths will focus on the use of Doodlemaths using 5 a day and other tasks. *Many children also really enjoy using TT Rockstars and Numbots so we are also asking children to try these each week – the instructions on Seesaw will explain if there is a challenge to beat their teacher or another class!*
- Doodle spell activities will be set every week.
- Writing homework will be related to what has been taught in class – it should be not too long and could focus on aspects of grammar or improving sentences and paragraphs. *Children should take time to ensure that the quality of what is written is their best work.*
- Reading should be done **daily** and parents / children are asked to write in their reading record books regularly (most days). **We are now asking that children bring their reading books and record books in to school each day in order that they can be changed as soon as a child has completed their book.**
- All homework submitted by Wednesday must be marked/acknowledged by the teacher. A comment should be written where a child has made a concerted effort with their homework tasks. Errors should also be identified and either clarified through marking or followed up within class.
- Each half term there will be a longer piece of homework linked to their topic – this may be a research project on a practical task and will often be cross curricular and more ‘open’ than the weekly tasks. This is an opportunity for children to develop their independence and creativity.

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. Parents can support their child's learning by doing the following:
- Break it up in to smaller tasks that can be completed over several days rather than tackled all in one go
 - Find somewhere quiet away from distractions (especially TV) to help them focus
 - Encourage them to be as independent as they can, tackling the tasks themselves. Just use questioning or modelling when they need it and don't do the homework for them!
 - Have high standards – if your child has produced careless or messy work, consider if they need to re-do it. If the teacher thinks that your child's homework is not their best, they may be asked to re-do it in school.
 - Celebrate their achievements with them when they have completed their work - it's important they know that both teachers and family want them to succeed.
- 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 Inclusion

- 6.1 Teachers will differentiate homework tasks to ensure that the wide range of needs and abilities within the class are met. Most tasks will be based on the age-appropriate learning that they have covered in class but there will be challenge activities to extend those who can progress further as well as simplified tasks for those pupils who require this in order to access the learning fully.

Policy on Homework

Where pupils are working significantly below the level of their peers, the teacher, inclusion leader and 1:1 TA (if applicable) will discuss the homework that is most appropriate for that child.

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 C&S committee _____ date _____