

# **Walbottle Village Primary School**



## **Homework Policy**

## **Rationale**

At Walbottle Village Primary School, we recognise the vital role parents play in their children's learning. We strongly believe in the value of a home-school partnership, of which our Homework Policy is an important element.

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.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Through this policy we aim to:

- \_ Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- \_ Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- \_ To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- \_ Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- \_ Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- \_ Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- \_ Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- \_ To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- \_ Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- \_ To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

## **The Nature of Homework**

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that regarding homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task. Some classes may be asked to complete a project about a topic in school which encourages independent learning.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

## **Homework across school**

Homework in our school takes various forms depending on the age of the pupils. For example, for younger children it may be practising reading and the learning of spellings and tables to support their learning in school, while for upper key stage 2 it may be additional work to prepare them for the demands of assessments and to prepare them for Secondary School. Our homework policy and practice is also mindful that children should have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their

lives. Our policy and practice therefore recognises the need for the children to have time to be children!

## **The Role of the Teacher**

- \_ To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a pre-school parents meeting or at an open evening if possible.
- \_ To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- \_ To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the cohort/Phase.
- \_ To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- \_ To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- \_ To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- \_ To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Walbottle Village Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

## **SEN**

At Walbottle Village Primary School all children, whatever their ability, will receive homework. Homework forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Walbottle Village recognises the need to cater for children with special educational needs. Homework is differentiated to assist children's learning in terms of:

- learning outcomes
- tasks
- resources

## **Gifted and Talented**

'Gifted and Talented' children are identified via pupil tracking grids and unit assessments. They are provided with opportunities to promote and develop their learning further through homework tasks.

## **Homework Feedback**

We recognise that pupils benefit from feedback on their homework as soon as possible. Some of the homework, particularly for the younger children, may not be formal paper exercises requiring formal marking. Therefore, much of the feedback may be verbal from the teacher to the child; the format and timing of the feedback depending on the nature of the homework and when it is assessed by the teacher.

With the older children, teachers will check that homework has been completed, and, depending on the task, children may 'class mark' or 'self mark' their work under the direction of the teacher or teaching assistant. Misconceptions will then be addressed by the teacher.

## **Homework Support**

In order to support children's learning, all children will be required to complete homework during their break times or golden time, should they not have brought it in on time. Also, the school's open-door policy allows all staff to be made aware of any issues that may be significant to any child's ability to complete his or her homework.

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