

West Bridgford Junior School

Homework Policy

Introduction:

The school policy for homework was originally developed and agreed after consultation with parents and staff. The revised policy was approved and ratified by the full governing body in the Spring Term of 2020 and was last reviewed in October 2023.

Aims:

- To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- To reinforce work, ideas and concepts covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge.
- To help children 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 when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's 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.
5. Homework should be set regularly.

At WBJs we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved and guide their learning where needed. Parents should feel able to adapt tasks where they feel appropriate, especially if they feel their child is finding the work set too difficult and it is causing them unnecessary stress.

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the school.

With this in mind, we have made changes to the way we approach homework as a school. Instead of sending home 'traditional' Maths and English homework every week, we encourage parents to use the time they would have spent on these tasks listening to their children read, helping them to learn their times tables and supporting them with learning their spellings.

Our expectation is that an adult read with their children at least 4 times a week for 10 – 15 minutes and records this in their reading diaries. We know that '*Children who are good readers enjoy reading and subsequently choose to read more. As a result, they develop their vocabulary and reading strategies better than those who are reading less.*' (Bradford Research School, March 2018)

Children's knowledge of times tables underpins much of what they learn in mathematics and gives them confidence when carrying out more complex calculations as they progress through school so we also encourage parents to practise times tables with their children several times a week.

In Year 6, children use the CGP Maths and English books and work their way through these throughout the year, having a Maths and English task set each week. This is firstly to help them prepare for SATs and secondly to help them prepare for the type of homework they will receive at Secondary School.

The following are the current homework expectations in each year group:

Years 3, 4 & 5

Reading at least 4 times a week; times table practice at least 4 times a week. Spellings sent home weekly.

Year 6:

One piece of English work **and** one piece of Mathematics work each week. Spellings sent home weekly. Reading at least 4 times a week.

Possible additional tasks:

Listed below are a number of additional tasks and activities that might be given as homework at different times of the year, for example for children to complete over a holiday period. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

- Researching topics
- Talk homework
- Internet based tasks
- Planning presentations

Class teachers should:

- Provide an explanation of any homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- Give clear guidance on how often children should be reading/practising their times tables.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the cohort.
- To set homework that takes account of the different needs of the children.
- To ensure that any homework is purposeful and links to class work.
- Monitor any homework produced by pupils.

Role of the Headteacher:

- To check compliance of the policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.

- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the expectations in terms of homework.

Role of Parents/Carers:

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To inform the teacher of any issue that arises from homework.

Role of the Governing Body:

- To check compliance of the policy.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented (during *TALK* and *WALK* days).

General:

- If children are absent due to illness, we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time eg. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head teacher first.
- Homework, by its nature of being out of the school day, and constraints of time etc. is 'best fit' and is not necessarily individually tailored to every child – though of course every effort is made for it to be as relevant as possible.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed in the autumn of 2024