



Woodlands Homework Policy

The Governors and staff of Woodlands Primary school believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. We believe it encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom as well as promoting independent learning thus encouraging the child to take great responsibility for their personal progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child. In addition specific homework can consolidate and strengthen the foundations of key curriculum skills to help better prepare for class learning.

While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough whilst others feel there is too much! The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which we believe to be reasonable and manageable as well as in line with the guidance provided.

Aims

Homework is encouraged throughout the school. To be most effective, parents, carers, staff and the children need to understand its purpose.

1. It reinforces skills which have been taught in school and gives children the opportunity to practice what they have learnt;
2. It encourages self-discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning;
3. It promotes independent learning
4. It provides teachers with the opportunity to support and extend individual children;
5. It sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school and futures employment
6. It encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers;
7. It encourages parents and carers to become involved with their children's learning

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school which is reflected in the Home-School Agreement. We recognize that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time'.

At Woodlands Homework is split into 3 categories linked to the National levelling of children

Expected

Exceeding Expectation

Greater Depth

Expected

This homework is the pure basics that your child needs to learn in school. Reading, spelling and times tables. The Homework grid states which spelling pattern and which tables should be learned each week. A couple of weeks have been allocated for review. Children are rewarded 5steampoints if they have read, practised spellings and completed their table sheet.

Reading

We would hope that children read daily and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times and is not just confined to the total time spent completing homework. This would include fostering early reading skills, where appropriate. We want to promote a love of reading in every child. We encourage parents and carers to discuss their children's books and ask questions about them to ensure that there is understanding of their book as well as accurate reading.

Children at Woodlands are actively encouraged to read daily with a minimum expectation of 3 times per week with an adult or peer- this can be any reading material that the family feel is appropriate to engage their child in reading.

Spellings

The spellings for each year group are taken directly from the national curriculum and expectations document. They are set as Age appropriate and we agree that they are challenging. We encourage children to practise their spelling daily by Look Cover Write Check and what other systems they find helpful. We also encourage the children to put their words into sentences or find their meaning as this will help them apply their spellings more effectively in their writing. Children will be tested on their spelling weekly.

Tables/number bonds

These are the foundation to all learning in maths. As with spellings, the government has set which table should be learned by which age- these are national expectations. Learning by rote, random questioning, reversing the question can all help your child learn their tables. Children will be tested on their tables/number bonds weekly. Teachers will provide tables sheets for the children to complete linked to the table they are learning.

Exceeding Expectations

In addition to the essential basics of reading, spelling and tables children at the Woodland are expected to consolidate and extend their class learning through set homework tasks. These may be computer based [education city] or paper based. Each activity is linked to the parent overview showing that the homework follows on from their class learning. Children are awarded 2 additional teampoints per completed homework.

Greater Depth

As part of our inclusive curriculum, all classes will be asked to select a home learning project at least once every term. These projects are linked to the class learning theme and children have a choice of which tasks they wish to complete at home. We believe the projects are a great opportunity for parents and carers to work alongside their child, enhancing their learning experience. The projects are shared with other classes and parents regularly. Children must have completed the other homeworks but can then be awarded an additional 10 teampoints

Expected 5tp	
Maths	English
Complete 2 sets of times tables/number bond grids per week Practise times tables	Complete spellings sheet Read a minimum of 3 times per week
Exceeding expected 2tp	
Maths	English
A more formal piece of homework – either an extension sheet or consolidation sheet from a textbook or an exercise from Education City	A more formal piece of homework – either an extension sheet or consolidation sheet from a textbook or an exercise from Education City

Greater Depth Project 10tp

Children may select one or two project pieces per term from a selection

Responsibilities

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned on time. Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for children to complete. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the children's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher. Class teachers will co-operate closely in their Key Stages to ensure that similar content and expectations between classes is in place.

The Headteacher will:

- Promote the school homework policy to staff, parents and pupils
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy
- Ensure that the school provides a homework club to assist those that need help

The teacher will:

- Set regular homework activities which will include both practical and written tasks
- Provide adequate and appropriate feedback to pupils through praise and encouragement, marking or testing (as appropriate)
- Set high expectation of pupils in completing homework

Parents and Carers should support their children by:

- Providing a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, somewhere reasonably peaceful, with supervision if appropriate
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school in explaining how it can help raise attainment
- Providing activities that support the activities set by the teacher
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard
- Being actively involved in joint homework activities with the children
- Contact the children's class teacher if they have any questions or contact the headteacher if they have queries of a general nature regarding homework. If parents wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parent should contact the governing body

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete task as instructed
- Ask for help as appropriate
- Gain increased motivation and enjoyment through home learning

Home learning should benefit teacher, pupils and parents by providing support and information to enable pupils to build confidence and make progress.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the homework policy is efficiently and effectively implanted within their class. This will be monitored by the Deputy Headteacher in order to ensure homework is contributing to overall pupil learning and progress.

Inclusion

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current stage of learning.

Equal Opportunities

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or home background.