



HOMework POLICY

Reviewed Annually by the Pupil Progress & Welfare Committee

| Date of last Review: | Signature: |
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| Autumn 2015 | |

ALFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Definition

Homework refers to any tasks or activities that pupils are asked to do outside normal lesson time, either on their own or with the help and encouragement of parents. This may vary from a simple activity to be completed for the following day, or a commitment to on-going work for a class project spread over a whole term.

Purpose of Homework

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school.
- To encourage independent learning.
- To undertake research which is more suited to an out-of-school situation.
- To sustain the involvement of parents and carers in pupil learning, and to keep them informed about the work pupils are doing.
- To encourage pupils (as they get older) to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the more rigorous homework demands of secondary school life.

In the earlier stages of school life, particularly at Key Stage 1, the main purpose will be to develop a learning partnership between home and school. The nature of homework tasks will alter as the children progress through the school, leading towards more independent learning.

Types of Homework

Homework will be set and recorded each week in each child's Homework Diary (or in the case of termly projects, through a letter to parents). This is a place where Spelling and Maths work will be kept, as well as a record of the child's reading. It is also a valuable tool for communication between teachers and parents, using the comments section on each page.

The diaries will be checked and signed each week by class teachers, the child and / or parents each week.

At Key Stage 1, the tasks set in the Homework Diaries will be simpler and shorter, involving close co-operation between children and parents. Such activities will include simple games, learning spellings, learning number facts and, of course, reading or looking at books together. There will be a distinct emphasis on the basic literacy and numeracy skills.

At Key Stage 2, the learning of spellings and number facts will continue to play a key role in home tasks, together with a continuing expectation that they will read more widely and for longer periods out of school. The emphasis placed almost exclusively on literacy and numeracy skills at Key Stage 1 may begin to broaden out into other subjects, as the children progress through the school. The range of tasks may become more varied and the timescales for completion will also fluctuate, depending on the nature of the task.

Typical examples of homework activities in Key Stage 2 are:

- undertaking simple research activities, including finding out information for class projects;
- preparing topic-based pieces, including for class presentations and school assemblies;
- writing a book review, or creating a piece of writing in the style of a genre / text type recently studied in school.

For homework to have real value for everyone, the following points should be noted:

- all tasks should be carefully planned and relevant to current classroom work;
- there should be a clear time-guideline for completion;
- it should be manageable for teachers without significantly increasing the marking workload generated from daytime lessons;

- it should not be used purely for some children to catch up with classroom work;
- tasks should be designed to allow children with special educational needs to be fully involved.

Feedback in School

It is important to underline the value of homework by always following through set tasks after the appropriate deadline, and setting aside time to discuss the pupils' work if necessary. This can be done in a variety of ways:

- allowing children to discuss their work with others;
- reporting back to the whole class informally;
- giving a presentation;
- handing in any written work;

Whilst homework is not compulsory in the school, it is vital that we encourage children to undertake all set tasks and that we go out of our way to reward or praise those who have completed a task well. As it is not statutory at primary school, there are currently no set time limits for how much homework should be expected for each year group. At Alford Primary, we use our discretion and recommend a minimum of short daily practice of reading, spelling and maths skills, rather than compulsory extended weekly sessions.

Role of Parents and Carers

Teachers should use the termly newsletter and the first Open Evening of the school year during the Autumn term to briefly explain to parents if there are set days for learning spellings or number facts, and if there are any longer-term topics that children may be required to think about at home. The success of this work depends very much on keeping parents informed, and directly seeking their support.

Parents should also be encouraged to:

- praise their children for completing homework tasks, whether it be as a shared task for the younger children or a more independent task for the older ones;
- provide a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which pupils can work at home;
- comment and sign in the Homework Dairies each week.