

WILLIAM HILDYARD PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

At William Hildyard Primary School we recognise the vital role parents play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the value of home-school partnership, of which our homework policy is an important element.

2. HOMEWORK - A DEFINITION

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. At William Hildyard we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.

3. THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

The school regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child;
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics;
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading;
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

4. CURRENT PRACTICE

At the beginning of the academic year, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework.

At the parents' information evenings in September, teachers will explain the organisation of homework in their child's class to parents. All pupils have homework books in which they complete homework.

5. THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK

The nature of homework will change as children get older. For children in Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents and carers, and involving them actively in children's learning is a key objective.

Short activities of different kinds – reading together, learning spellings and number facts - provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practise key skills in a supportive environment. As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning, which they will need to continue lifelong learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose

Where appropriate, homework will be differentiated to take account of individual pupils needs and may include:

- Home Reading
Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils will be provided with a suitable school reading book, which can be taken home to read with a parent or other adult person. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to or read to their child.
Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be expected to take responsibility for their own reading books as necessary.
- Spellings
Spellings will be given to each child to learn using the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check method. Some spellings may be differentiated by pupil ability, others may be key words from topics [Y1 6-8 spellings; Y2 8-10 spellings; Y3 8-10; Y4 10-12 spellings; Y5 10-12 spellings; Y6 12-15 spellings].

- **Maths**
Homework will be provided for pupils to consolidate or revise particular mathematical skills.
In Key Stage 2, pupils may be required to learn key facts, for example, helpful rhymes, number bonds or tables and as they get older will receive homework to practise calculation skills.
- **English**
Homework will be provided for pupils to consolidate or revise particular word, sentence or text level work or planning towards class work.
- **Topic Work**
Pupils will be given the opportunity to research topics they are studying in class as they move through Key Stage 2. This research could be sourced from books, the internet or from family members.

6. THE TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK

The amount of time that we ask pupils to spend on their homework is set out in the table below including the types of activities that children might be expected to undertake:

YEAR GROUP	AMOUNT	ACTIVITIES
4+, Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week	Reading, spelling, other literacy and number work
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week	English and/or Mathematics with occasional activities in other subjects
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes a day/a regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on English and Mathematics but also ranging widely over the Curriculum	

Nursery and Reception receive home books with activities for children based on work completed in class (this is non-compulsory).

7.. ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS

The school recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities.

To avoid 'battles' over homework we recommend:-

- that children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace;
- acknowledgement should be given to their own interests;
- the task is undertaken at an appropriate time when the child is best able to concentrate;
- your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks;
- that work at home is perceived as a shared activity;
- work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes;
- it should not be used as a threat or punishment.

We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult. Give support and help but do not do the work for the children. Please support children in completing tasks and return work in a tidy, presentable state.

Concerns

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If you have any concerns about the levels of homework or the content etc., please see your child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about homework. If there is a problem come in and speak to the teacher about it.