



Southwood Infant School Homework Policy

Our aim is to provide within our school an inspirational and stimulating curriculum which challenges all children to realise their individual potential. Learning at home is recognised as being an essential part. We consider that homework supports the child's learning, fosters the links between home and school, helps to promote self-discipline and independence in learning, establishes good working habits and enables the parents to have knowledge of the work being done during the school day.

We value the role homework plays in:

- developing effective partnership between the school and parents
- ensuring parents/carers have a clear understanding of planned learning experiences and expectations
- ensuring progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- extending the child's learning through reinforcement and revision
- providing opportunities for parents and pupils to share learning experiences

We aim to ensure that there is a progression in both the type and quantity of homework through the school.

Specifically this will mean:

In Reception: Children are expected to read daily at home for 10 minutes in addition to daily reading in school. They should also spend some time through the week learning their key words and phonics. In addition children may be given tasks related to their topic or theme being studied.

In Years 1/2: Children are expected to read at least 4 times per week for 15 minutes in addition to reading in school. They should spend some time each week learning their spellings and mental maths. They will have an extended homework task on the first Monday of each month related to learning in school.

- Homework can be set by someone other than the class teacher, ie a special needs teacher or group teacher.
- Homework set should be given a clear deadline date, but some consideration should be given to pupils' other commitments.
- Teachers will write the homework task in their own homework book and give feedback.
- If a child is off school because they are sick then homework will not be sent home.

- If a child is off school for a length of time but is well enough to do some work at home, then it is the decision of the teacher with the parent to agree what should be done, how it will be marked and what sort of help needs to be given.
- If a holiday is taken during term time then homework will not be set for that period.
- Special arrangements may be made to suit individual circumstances at the discretion of the class teacher and following discussion with parents.

In all of the above, the giving of homework shall remain flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of the individual.

Special educational needs

The timetable applies to all children. However children will receive differentiated tasks according to their needs, which may be different from the rest of the class.

How staff support this policy:

- by providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in the class.
- by ensuring the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability.
- by communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be covered and their children's individual targets.

How parents can support this policy:

- Provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members or pets.
- Provide a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space and a good light.
- Provide encouragement and support.
- Support the school in explaining that homework is valued and aids learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed.
- Let the teacher know of any issues or difficulties.

Pupils are expected to:

- Tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
- Take pride in presentation and content.
- Listen carefully to the description of tasks and ask for help if they do not understand.
- Take responsibility for handing in completed tasks on time.

Feedback for pupils, parents or carers and teachers

It is important that feedback is given to pupils as quickly as possible.

This can be given in a number of ways:

- Immediately by parents or carers.
- Discussion in class where homework is part of the class work.
- Through tests such as tables and spellings.
- Pupils reviewing the work in pairs or in small groups.
- Presentation of homework in class to other pupils.

Teachers are interested to know how children carried out the tasks whether they are too hard/too easy/interesting etc. Any comments can be recorded in the homework books themselves. Parents may also wish to comment on whether the time allocation was appropriate or whether the task was too long/too short. As with all school activities, parents are invited to discuss any queries with their child's class teacher.

Presented to staff and governors: January 2016

To be reviewed: January 2018