



Homework policy

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Southwood Infant School Homework Policy

Vision Statement

Here at Southwood Infant School we put the children at the centre of all we do. We want all our children to enjoy their time here and to make excellent progress both academically and personally. We recognise that every child is unique and deserves the opportunity to be happy, feel valued and experience success. We believe that children learn best through first-hand experience and our curriculum is designed so that pupils are stimulated and motivated to learn. We have high expectations of our children and promote the highest standards of behaviour, based on our strong school values of

EXCELLENCE - RESPECT – ENJOYMENT

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of Southwood Infant School, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

Aims:

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 believe that homework adds a very valuable dimension, with parents and school working in partnership to help children to develop not only knowledge and skills, but dispositions and attitudes, such as persistence and a willingness to take calculated risks which will stand them in good stead for tackling life's challenges.

Homework can offer the children the chance to practise newly learned skills, to investigate a particular interest, and to consolidate new learning. When set and completed within the right structure, its completion undoubtedly builds self-esteem and confidence in children.

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 set will have a clear deadline date, but some consideration should be given to pupils' other commitments
- 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
- 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
- Take time to listen to your child.
- Encourage your child to complete their work before they are too tired to be successful.
- Encourage their interest and praise their efforts.
- Help your child to understand the meaning of words.
- Help your child to use a picture or first dictionary, thesaurus or encyclopaedia.
- Ensure that they have a range of appropriate writing and drawing equipment for expressing their ideas.

We do not expect you to:

- Teach your child new strategies. The homework will be related to work carried out in class.
- Write the answers for your child.
- Collect all the information yourself.
- Read out passages for your child to write down.

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. 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. Homework is an extension of what your child learns in school. If your child is having difficulty with the work set or is unsure of what to do, please talk to their class teacher. They will always be happy to help.

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