

WHITEHILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

"...putting children first..."



HOMework POLICY

Date reviewed: November 2021

Reviewed by: Headteacher

Ratified by *Governors*: November 2023

Homework Policy

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Whitehills Primary School we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

According to research from the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation),

Homework has an impact by enabling pupils to undertake independent learning to practise and consolidate skills, conduct in-depth inquiry, prepare for lessons or revise for exams. When implementing homework, the evidence suggests a wide variation in impact. Therefore, we consider the 'active' ingredients to the approach, which may include:

- *Considering the quality of homework over quantity*
- *Give tasks that consolidate learning in the classroom*
- *Understand and address barriers to completing homework*

Why give homework?

- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- It take advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one-to-one adult time
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts.
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school

Home work at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Whitehills Primary is not a school in which homework might dominate home life. We have listened to the responses from a recent questionnaire involving parents, children, staff and governors. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that the weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict, it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

In response to the parental survey, and taking account of the children's views, we will run an optional homework club during lunchtimes, to support families where homework may be a challenge. Supplementary to the homework club, we run a weekly 'Doodle' lunch club. Children will be supported by staff who can help them successfully complete homework.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives, such as recognition during weekly celebration assemblies, and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they do not complete the work. However, homework completion will be monitored and if a child regularly does not complete and/or return tasks, this will be discussed with the child's parents.

Our routines and expectations

In the early years and in years 1 and 2, children will need support from a parent to complete some of the homework. It should be a collaborative and enjoyable experience.

As the children develop, we would expect more independent work to be complete, with a parent/ adult ensuring the child has completed the work to the best of their ability and the children have taken pride in their work.

Foundation Stage 2

- Daily reading and parents to sign reading records each week
- Busy Things (App) -phonics and maths to consolidate learning in class
- Weekly phonics video via Evidence Me (App) to support development of phonics
- Kinetic Letters (Spring Term) to be set weekly on paper

Year 1

- Daily reading and parents to sign reading records each week
- Parentmail – weekly phonics and key words to be read and written in sentences
- Doodlemaths – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Kinetic Letters – set periodically when a new family of letters has been taught and/or practised in class

Year 2

- Daily reading and parents to sign reading records each week
- Weekly phonics
- Times Tables Rockstars to be accessed each week
- Doodle Maths – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Doodle English – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Kinetic Letters – set periodically when a new family of letters has been taught and/or practised in class

Year 3

- Daily reading and parents to sign reading records each week
- Times Tables Rockstars to be accessed each week
- Doodle Maths – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Doodle English – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Kinetic Letters – set periodically when a new family of letters or joins have been taught and/or practised in class

Year 4

- Daily reading and parents to sign reading records each week
- Times Tables Rockstars to be accessed each week
- Doodle Maths – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Doodle English – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Kinetic Letters – set periodically to consolidate letters or joins that have been taught and/or practised in class

Year 5

- Daily reading
- Read Theory (online)
- Doodle Spell – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Doodle Maths – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Doodle English – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Times Tables Rockstars to be accessed each week
- Kinetic Letters – set periodically to consolidate letters or joins that have been taught and/or practised in class

Year 6

- Daily reading
- Read Theory (online)
- Doodle Spell – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Doodle Maths – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Times Tables Rockstars to be accessed each week
- CPG book based maths activity
- Grammar consolidation set weekly in Spring and Summer terms
- Doodle English – children to aim for the ‘green zone’ each week
- Times Tables Rockstars

Parents will be informed of the expectations within each year group at the start of each academic year. Homework which is not app based will be shared via Parentmail.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school, i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black/blue pen.

Occasionally, optional extended projects will be set to allow children to be more creative with either research or a craft activity, linked to the wider curriculum.

If access to devices to complete homework is a barrier, parents are able to request support from the school.

For those children and parents who wish to have more homework, upon request, teachers will provide this to support and consolidate learning.