

WESTON HILLS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMework POLICY STATEMENT

Introduction

We believe it is very important to have strong links between home and school and for us to work together to ensure a good education for your children. It is for this reason that we believe it is important that children begin to bring 'work' home from a fairly young age.

This enables parents to help their child to learn and for the children to see parents and teachers working together. Homework encourages pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of Secondary School.

We believe that homework can encourage independent learning. It can enable children to practise skills learned in the classroom, particularly in literacy and numeracy. It can enable children to make use of materials and information sources not available in the classroom. It can involve parents and other adults in the children's work.

Homework throughout the School

Key Stage 1

In Reception and Years 1 & 2 the main focus of homework is reading. Children will have focussed phonics practise to do at home as well as reading books. Accompanying the child's reading book is a 'Reading Record Booklet' which is used to keep a record of the books read but is also a means of parents commenting on their child's reading. We encourage parents to sign the booklet and make any comments about their child's reading when they hear their child read. As their reading develops, they will be encouraged to develop independent reading. However, they still benefit from daily reading with parents - reading out loud to develop fluency; discussing characters; the story plot; what they like/don't like about the book. Children will also bring home spelling activities to help them practise and learn new spelling patterns.

During Year 2, children may be given Literacy and Maths homework linked to that week's objectives.

Key Stage 2

As children get older they will be able to read independently but reading is still an important skill to practise and enjoy. The children continue to take reading books home. In many cases the children enjoy reading these books to themselves but encourage parents to talk to their child about what they have read and on occasion hear them read. Each child has a Reading Record Booklet for parents to sign. Some children will still need regular support with their reading, help to practise their reading skills and build their self-confidence. Parents are made aware of how they can help.

Children will be set homework tasks each week, with continued emphasis on literacy and maths but also ranging widely over the curriculum.

Homework may also be put on the school website within each class page.

Tasks will include spellings and tables to be learnt.

Work set in both literacy and maths is linked to the learning objectives for that week.

Children may be asked to complete or consolidate class work, developing lines of enquiry or prepare work for a lesson or presentation. The tasks asked of the children may include revising or learning for a test making use of reference material from home or the library, and factual or imaginative writing.

Children may be asked to make things, collect items or bring in things from home to support their topic work in the classroom.

Children who do not attempt to complete their homework may be required to do so during school time; this could include break times or Golden Time at the teachers' discretion.

Ways Parents can help

Ask your child what homework they have to do and check that they understand what to do. Encourage and praise your child when they have completed homework. Make it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.

Many children will need time to get over the school day and others will need parents to assist and support them, before they can establish a routine for themselves.

Provide a quiet place, with a suitable working surface. The time set aside for homework should be respected by the rest of the family.

There are many ways parents can help: listen to their child read, read to their child, discuss what their child is learning, read what has been written, check presentation for neatness and accuracy, direct child to a suitable website, reference book or other information. Provide guidance if their child has difficulty and speak to the class teacher if the child is struggling with homework

General

If children are off school due to illness, then we do not send work home. We would make the assumption that they are not well enough to work.

It may happen that a child is off for a length of time because of a medical problem, but is well enough to do some work at home. We are happy to organise for work to be sent home in this case.

We hold a parent meeting in the first week of the autumn term to talk to parents about the topics the children will be covering throughout the year, homework activities and any organisational issues they need to know. We also, where possible, have parent workshop evenings related to our School Development Plan priorities, for example, on reading.

A copy of this homework policy statement is kept in the parents file in the school entrance.

Review

This policy statement will be reviewed as and when necessary.

This policy statement was updated in the Autumn Term 1998, using guidance sent in November 1998 from the DfEE on Homework in Primary Schools.

This policy was updated in summer term 2001.

This policy was reviewed and updated in summer term 2002.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2003.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2005.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2006.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2008.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Spring 2011.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Spring 2013.

This policy was updated in Autumn 2013 due to amendments.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Spring 2016.