

Oakley Lower School

Homework Policy

For this policy “homework” refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Philosophy

We believe that:

- homework can help the pupils reinforce, develop and enhance their school studies.
- small amounts of homework should be enjoyable and rewarding whilst fostering self discipline and an enthusiasm for learning.
- homework gives parents information, on a weekly basis, about what their child is learning in school.
- homework helps to reinforce home/school links and enables families/carers to support their child(ren).
- homework is part of a wider partnership between parents and schools.

Aims

It is our aim to:

- provide homework that is relevant to the curriculum
- provide a manageable amount of homework for each Year Group increasing the amount as the children move into K.S.2.
- ensure that parents are aware of what homework will be set during the year.
- provide differentiated homework to meet individual needs where appropriate.
- establish a routine (eg spellings on the same day each week) for setting tasks
- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account
- improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils
- extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences

Foundation Stage

Children take home reading books to share with parents/siblings/other family members. We encourage parents to write comments in the reading diary.

Children are encouraged to bring in items from home relating to the weekly topics.

Year 1 - 4

Guidelines are sent home at the start of each year, indicating:

1. Areas of study in each curriculum area
2. Amount of reading children are expected to do
3. Other homework requirements for children in that year group
4. The time children should normally devote to homework

Homework activities

Alongside the regular activities of reading, learning of spellings and numeracy activities some additional homework may be set. More homework is set for children to ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility. Activities may include:

- finding out information
- preparing oral presentations
- writing prayers/poems
- learning a poem
- activities to enrich the curriculum

All children in Years 1 to 4 have a homework book. Homework to be undertaken is recorded in the book. Children may be required to work in the homework book or on paper as appropriate. Parents are encouraged to supervise and support their child(ren) and assist with research, giving advice and encouragement, helping with spellings, checking punctuation etc. It is however important that the work should be the child's, and that she or he can demonstrate an understanding of the work done.

An advice sheet for parents on how to support their child is put in the front of the homework book. Guidance on supporting children with reading is included in reading diaries.

Special Needs

Certain pupils with Special Needs may be set individual homework in consultation with their parents to support their particular need. It is the responsibility of the SENCo to liaise with the classteacher to ensure that the child is not too burdened.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Parent's views on the amount and range of homework are sought as follows:-

- a) Parents are encouraged to discuss informally with the class teacher if they feel homework is too hard/easy/time consuming etc.
- b) Consultation evening discussions also include discussion on homework, the child's attitude towards it and its manageability. The Autumn Consultation evenings provide an opportunity for parents to check on amount of homework set or for the teacher to check that spellings/tables etc are being practised and homework books are being shown to parents.
- c) Homework books will be scrutinised by the Head or Assistant Headteacher periodically.

Success Criteria

All teachers will set appropriate homework (range and amount) regularly.

Children will complete homework.

There will be consistency within different classes in each key stage.

Parents will understand the expectations of the school and the majority will be satisfied with the range and amount of homework set.

Parental opinion will be considered when this policy is reviewed.

Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years as part of the policy review cycle. At such times Staff and Governors will take account of ongoing monitoring and evaluation evidence, in particular, parental opinion.

S E Lovett
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Review 2013