

Lydeard St Lawrence Community Primary School

*Close Community, Wide Horizons*

**Homework Policy**

**Aims**

To aid each child's progress towards achieving his or her full potential with the assistance, support and cooperation of parents.

By setting a little homework on a regular basis and on an increasing ratio, from Reception class to Year 6, to adequately prepare children for the demands and responsibilities of secondary school.

**Objectives**

- To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to class work.
- To provide opportunity for the child to practice what has been learnt in class, including the development of the basic skills e.g. tables, spellings, independent research skills etc.
- To provide a practical opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child.
- To provide a practical opportunity for the child to begin to take responsibility for organising their own workload.

**What is homework?**

Homework is not necessarily written work. It is any task that a child is asked to complete at home. It may consist of reading, learning by heart and reinforcement of class work, research and project work or further practice of skills learnt in class.

Good practice requires that we give credence to other developmental needs of the child. We appreciate the value of extra curricular activities, (sport, music, dancing, drama, the uniformed groups, other hobbies, etc.) and in setting homework we allow space for these. A well balanced, healthy child should be encouraged to develop their particular interests in many of these activities in their own time.

Should parents wish their children to spend more time in structured academic work, they will find much suitable material in most local book shops.

As with all other matters relating to children, teachers are available to discuss homework with parents.

Staff are expected to work towards our aims by:

- providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate learning in class.
- ensure 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.
- communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied and developed and individual targets that have been negotiated.

Pupils are expected to work towards this aim by:

- making full use of all the opportunities they are presented with.
- tackling home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
- taking pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
- being organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school.
- taking responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

Parents are expected to work towards the schools aims by:

- providing suitable quiet surroundings i.e. not in front of the television.
- encouraging younger family members to play quieter games if in the same room.
- encouraging children to persevere with a task.
- giving due importance to non-written tasks such as hearing reading and assisting in the learning of times tables and weekly spellings.
- keeping the staff informed of any changes in the child's circumstances that may affect their learning.

**GUIDELINES**

Homework is preparation for, or positive reinforcement of work done in school. Homework is considered an integral part of the curriculum. It enriches and consolidates, develops research skills and cultivates the mind.

For this discipline to be of value it is important that work be completed and handed in on time. Children are given clear expectations of the standard required.

The average amount of time to be spent on homework each evening, including non-written tasks such as; reading, learning tables etc., should be approximately:

Years 1 & 2 10 - 20 minutes

Years 3 & 4 20 - 30 minutes

Years 5 & 6 30 - 40 minutes

A standard approach will be adopted throughout the whole school in order to avoid confusion for the child and parents, moving progressively from reading and spellings to individual, independent tasks.

Parents will be advised at the beginning of the school year of the homework expectations of the class teachers. They will also be given details of ways in which they may be asked to assist the child at home.

A system for informing parents of homework that has been set and for providing feedback to parents varies from class to class but consists of a written instruction of the task set and the use of reading diary/homework book.

#### Class 1

- Homework will usually involve the practice of basic skills, such as reading, learning the order of the alphabet, spellings and handwriting.
- Each child is provided with a reading diary. Parents are invited to write comments in the diary about the child's enjoyment of, or interest in the reading book.
- There will be many times when your child will be asked to collect and bring in topic related items or books for contribution to projects.

#### Class 2

- Homework will usually involve the practice of basic skills, such as reading, learning the order of the alphabet, spellings, tables and handwriting.
- Each child is provided with a reading diary. Parents are invited to write comments in the diary about the child's enjoyment of, or interest in the reading book.
- There will be many times when your child will be asked to collect and bring in topic related items or books for contribution to projects. In addition there will be maths or language activities set.

#### Class 3

- It is desirable that every child does some reading every night, sometimes as a "sharing" experience with an adult. Reading material may include fiction, non-fiction, annuals, comics etc. It should be a personal choice from books at home or from the local library. It is important that parents monitor children's reading.
- Homework will usually involve the practice of work begun in class, preparation for another task or more open ended activities.
- Research work or special project assignments may be set to reinforce topics being studied in school. These may well be ongoing over a longer period of time, emphasis might be on research skills, presentation, illustration, time-management and punctuality.

Gill Stripp 2009

Adopted by governors:

Date for review: