



Winterton Junior School Homework Policy

Aims and Objectives

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at the School, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of the School.

The objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and the school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in the School;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in the School and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work ethics and habits for the future.

School Organisation

We set a variety of homework activities. Throughout the school we expect the children to read their pages set by their Reading Leader from their daily guided reading session. We give guidance information to parents to enable them to support their child with their reading. It is very important that children complete their daily reading so that they are ready to join in discussions with their Guided Reading Group the next day. If a child does not complete their reading at home they are expected to complete this at break time.

Children are also expected to learn and practice their weekly spellings at home. There is also an expectation that children will practice their times tables on a daily basis to enable them to have quick recall of times tables facts.

Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to or during studying it in school. We may ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the local library and the Internet and CD-ROMs.

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should first contact the Head and then contact the governing body if they wish to take this further.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

Homework Policy written by: Mrs Cathy Logan January 2016

Homework Policy accepted by staff: April 2016

Homework Policy adopted by Governors: April 2016

Homework Policy to be reviewed: Spring 2019