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Responsibility for review: Curriculum

Rationale

At Oakhurst Community Primary School we value the importance of homework, not only in assisting pupils learning and progress but in promoting a partnership with parents.

The Government's recommended time allocation, based on current good practice, has been followed when formulating this policy.

Purpose

- To ensure a whole school consistent approach to homework and to make homework manageable for all concerned.
- To consolidate and extend skills covered in class, particularly in English and mathematics.
- To encourage positive working habits at home.
- To encourage pupils to organise their time effectively and thus develop a sense of responsibility towards learning.
- To develop a level of independence, increasing as pupils move through the school.
- To encourage communication between home and school, helping to create a partnership.
- To provide opportunities, where possible, for pupils to use resources out of school such as computers and books.

Time allocation and types of homework

Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Sounds and/or words • Occasional topic/maths activity 	No more than one hour per week
Years 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Sounds and/or key words • Weekly maths or topic activity 	One hour per week

Daily reading recommended by the government for **all primary children** can be done as part of the homework.

Foundation subjects will be incorporated into homework activities through cross-curricular links. Activities may include: research, preparatory research for an area of study, making models, planning work in advance for a lesson and preparing a talk or presentation.

Reading, learning spellings, and quick maths/tables may be set as part of homework, including our online resource, Education City.

Homework will **not** always take the form of being a written activity, particularly for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children.

If parents do not have access to the internet at home, the school can assist in providing access to computers before or after school.

Marking

Homework will be marked weekly by the class teacher following the school marking policy guidelines. Depending on the task set/age of children, homework may be marked together in class. Children should be encouraged to complete homework tasks through the school's reward system (rather than being punished for non-completion).

Shared Responsibilities

Teachers are responsible for:

- Establishing homework procedures;
- Communicating such procedures to parents through a year group newsletter at the beginning of the year;
- Ensuring children have a homework book and keeping a class record of this;
- Ensuring that children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them;
- Preparing and following up homework tasks;
- Rewarding quality work with appropriate recognition reflecting the school passport system;
- Contacting parents about homework tasks not completed (if appropriate);
- Setting appropriate homework tasks **which reinforce and consolidate class learning** (including differentiation of tasks);
- Using homework and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in conjunction to reinforce learning;
- Communicating to parents the availability of study support opportunities as part of the Extended Schools Agenda.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Tackling homework promptly and with a positive attitude;
- Making full use of all the opportunities they are presented with;
- Being organised and remembering to take homework home and return it on time;
- Taking responsibility for their own learning and completing work within an agreed time;

- Taking pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing suitable, quiet surroundings where pupils can do their homework alone, i.e., not in front of the television;
- Encouraging younger family members to play quieter games if in the same room;
- Making it clear to children that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- Encouraging children to persevere with a task and giving support if appropriate;
- Giving due importance to non-written tasks such as listening to children read on a regular basis;
- Assisting with the learning of weekly spelling or key words;
- Keeping school informed of any changes in the child's learning circumstances which may affect learning.

Making homework manageable

Homework should not be a stressful experience between parent and child. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Please contact school if this is happening.

Monitoring

This will be ongoing and undertaken by each class teacher. The overall effectiveness of homework across the school, will be discussed in staff meetings following work scrutiny and monitoring by the Headteacher and Curriculum Governors.

The annual parent questionnaire specifically asks about the effectiveness of homework and this will be reviewed by the Curriculum committee.

End of policy.

