



Churchfields
The Village School

Atworth ∞ Monkton Farleigh

HOMEWORK POLICY

Approval Date:	Autumn 2019
Review Date:	Autumn 2021

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.

We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing 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. However, 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- help children develop good work habits for the future.

Homework across the School:

The following is guidance for teachers and parents on the minimum homework that must be set for pupils who attend Churchfields.

Early Years

In addition to the homework provided to children within Key Stage One (below), pupils in the Early Years are also provided with weekly maths games they can use with parents. Parents can choose the amount of time they play these games with their children in the course of a week.

POLICY & PROCEDURE

Key Stage One

Pupils within years one and two will receive the following homework every week. These include recommended times to be spent on each activity:

Reading → 15-20 minutes daily

Spellings → To be learned weekly

Mathletics/Maths Passport activities will also be available throughout the term.

‘Times Tables Rock Stars’ is available to support pupils in year two from term three to learn the multiplication tables.

Pupils will also be provided with a homework grid for the start of every topic (three to six times per year). This pack will contain several activities, one of which must be completed as a minimum every short term. Activities will link to the topics to be studied in the term and encompass a variety of subject areas.

Key Stage Two

Pupils within years three, four, five and six will receive the following homework every week. These include recommended times to be spend on each activity:

Reading → 20 minutes, three times per week minimum

Spellings → To be learned weekly

Multiplication tables → To be learned weekly. These are laid out in the mathematics policy. ‘Times Tables Rock Stars’ is available to support pupils with this

Pupils will also be provided with a homework pack for the start of every topic (three to six times per year). This pack will contain at least nine activities, two of which must be completed as a minimum every short term. Activities will link to the topics to be studied in the term and encompass a variety of subject areas. Pupils may choose another appropriate activity of their choosing if they wish.

In addition, in year six, weekly activities will be provided to develop pupils’ skills and knowledge, and to prepare children for end of Key Stage tests and secondary schooling. Homework clubs will run for this year group in the lead up to children sitting their end of Key Stage tests.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, provide access information technology regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

POLICY & PROCEDURE

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the headteacher.

Homework is seen in part as a preparation for the more independent learning undertaken at secondary school. If homework is not completed regularly, the classteacher and/or headteacher will speak to parents to determine how the school can support its completion.

Homework Acknowledgement

Teachers will acknowledge/celebrate homework carried out. Depending on the homework itself, acknowledgement may be in written form or as verbal feedback. Certificates are presented to children for any topic homework completed in Key Stage Two. Homework will be filed in individual folders for each pupil.