Homework Policy

Last agreed: March 2020
Review: March 2022
Stanford-le-Hope Primary School

Homework Policy

The Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust is a multi-academy trust (MAT) incorporated around the principles and values of the international co-operative movement. These are Equality, Equity, Democracy, Self-help, Self-Responsibility and Solidarity, along with the ethical values of openness, honesty, social responsibility and caring for others. These values and principles underpin all our actions.

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the delivery of homework at Stanford le Hope Primary School.

Rationale
We feel that homework actively involves parents/carers in their child’s learning and as a positive consequence creates a partnership between home and school.

We carried out a consultation, during the Autumn Term 2019, with all stakeholders to gather views and opinions relating to homework. We aim to streamline our policy and reflect these views as much as possible through this policy.

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Stanford-le-Hope Primary we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

purposes
- The homework policy will ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Homework will provide a structure where parents are encouraged to support their child’s learning and parents/carers are informed about work going on in class.
- Homework will create a meaningful link between home and school, raising the importance of schoolwork.
- Homework will improve, consolidate and reinforce basic skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Homework helps to develop independent learners and improve organisational skills as they begin to take more responsibility for themselves.
- Homework helps to foster good habits of organisation, self-help and self-responsibility in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Stanford-le-Hope Primary is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents’ imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work.
However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

**Role of parent/carers**
It is desired that parents/carers will support their children with their homework by providing suitable conditions for homework to be carried out. It is envisaged that parents/carers will have a positive attitude towards homework and its completion and that as far as possible parents/carers will try to involve themselves with tasks set and encourage quality of presentation and content.

**Role of the school**
The school will ensure that parents/carers understand what is expected of their children from their homework and how parents/carers can best support them at home. Children who do not complete their homework are invited to attend a ‘Homework Club’ during a lunchtime session. Teachers will set tasks that are differentiated to support the child’s learning as appropriate.

**Monitoring and review**
The Governors and Senior Leadership Team within the school will monitor its effectiveness on an annual basis, through discussions with staff, children and parents and update and amend the policy if and when necessary.

**Our routines and expectations**
All classes give out weekly homework on a Friday and it is expected to be returned by the following Friday. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

**HOMEWORK IN NURSERY**
Share a book each night.

**HOMEWORK IN RECEPTION**
The expectations of homework:
- **READING**
- **PHONICS**
- **MATHS**

**READING**
Children are expected to be read to every night, either a story book from their own collection or one from the class book boxes.

**Read, Write Inc books**
These are sent home on a Friday for the children to read to you. The book needs to be returned by the following Friday, in order for them to take the next one home.

**Book Bands.**
Children will be able to take home a book to read to you from the book banded scheme, which will be at the same level as the Read Write Inc band they are working on. It is expected that your child does this every night, it could be the same book or a different one. The children do have an opportunity to change this book daily.
Children will be given a reading diary to record in the books that have been shared with them and the books they have read independently to an adult.

Teachers will decide when is best for them to collect in the reading diaries and see what the children have been reading.

**PHONICS**
Children will receive a grid containing new phonemes, previously taught phonemes, green words and red works on a grid to work on at home.

These sheets will go out on a Friday and be collected in on a Thursday, in order for the teachers to read your comments and prepare the folders to be given out the next day.

**MATHS**
Teachers will set homework tasks to practice key maths skills using Education City. Logins will be handed out at the Termly Learning Conferences in the autumn term.
Teachers will be able to keep a track of those children who have attempted the task set.

This will also be set on a Friday

**HOMEWORK IN KEY STAGES 1 AND 2**

The expectations of homework:
- **READING**
- **SPELLING/PHONICS**
- **MATHS**

**READING**
Children are expected to read every night.

Book Bands
We have a banded book scheme in place for the children to take home a reading book at their reading level. Children should be practising their reading every night.
Children should also have the opportunity to hear stories, such as being read to or listening to audio books.

Children will be given a reading diary, which should be filled in every time your child reads to you and when you read to them.

Individual teachers will decide when is best for them to collect in the reading diaries and see what the children have been reading.

**SPELLING**
Children will receive spellings weekly on a grid for them to practise at home.

‘Look, Cover, Write, Check’ is a strategy used to help children learn their spellings.

A child is given a word to spell and:
- looks at it
- covers it over with a piece of paper or their hand
- writes the spelling again next to the word
- uncovers the spelling to check if they have got it right.
This is a good method to teach children so that they practise the spellings of words, but also so that they are testing themselves.
Spellings will be sent home on Fridays and spelling tests will also be on a Friday. The spelling sheets do not need to be handed in for marking.

**MATHS**

Children are expected to practise their times tables at home. The children have access to TT Rockstars to help them with this. There are also many other on-line games that can be used, as well as commercially produce materials such as flash cards and workbook.

We use an online maths scheme called My Maths. Teachers will be able to set homework for the children to complete and can track their progress. In the program there is access to lessons, to explain the strategies they are using, which can help the children and parents who are not sure about the current methods being taught.

Maths homework will now be set Friday to Friday.

Teachers will be tracking the progress and completion of My Maths tasks.

There will be opportunities for the children to complete this homework in the ICT suite during lunchtimes. The school library is also open after school on Tuesday and Thursdays 3.15 - 4.00pm, parents can come into the library to use the computer during these times to support their child complete their homework.

**ADDITIONAL HOMEWORK**

Please note that in some year groups additional homework maybe set in order to support the children in the statutory assessments they will be taking, or to help the children in areas they may find more difficult. Some year groups may have additional projects for the children to complete at home, should they wish to, in order to enhance their learning experiences.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The school also pays for your child to have access to different online resources to support their learning at home.
For children to make the most progress reading, spelling and multiplication/division facts need to be practised nightly.

**What to do if you have concerns**

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground, or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently, please talk with your child’s teacher in the first instance.

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<th>Resource</th>
<th>Year group availability</th>
<th>What it does</th>
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