



Shoscombe Church School

Homework Policy 2019

We recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school and how this positively benefits the academic, cultural, social and moral development of individual children. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership.

Why is Homework important? The purpose of homework at Shoscombe Church School is to enable children to reinforce and consolidate skills, and to broaden the context of learning to provide enrichment and extension. It also provides opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning and empowers children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

Homework can include:

Reading: reading regularly at home is essential. It is the expectation that every child at Shoscombe Church School has the opportunity to read at home at least 5 times a week and to record relevant comments in their Home School Learning Diary. Even when children can read fluently, they should be encouraged to discuss their thoughts and justify opinions using clues and evidence from the text.

Spellings: Children will receive weekly spellings taken from the year-group appropriate statutory requirements as detailed in the National Curriculum English: Appendix 1. They will be given out on a set day of the week and tested the following week. These spellings reflect the spelling patterns studied during the week.

Maths: reinforcement activities based on the key concepts covered in class with a particular focus on multiplication and essential number facts. Children will be tested on their recall of times tables and key number facts each week as appropriate to their age and stage.

Wider Curriculum: a 'menu' of topic based enrichment activities. Children can choose any activity from this menu and will receive guidance from their class teacher about when this is due back in school.

Expectations:

Age group	English and Mathematics	Enhancement and Wider Curriculum
Reception	There are no guidelines or timescales at this age. The main emphasis is in developing early literacy skills through reading and practising key words and sounds. Additionally, each week parents are given suggestions for practical activities to complement the maths and literacy work	Parents and carers are encouraged to complete WOW stickers to celebrate the wider learning and experiences their children have outside school.

	covered in class.	
Year 1 and 2	Weekly spellings and multiplication tables plus reading at least 5 times a week.	Children may choose to complete an additional activity from the wider curriculum homework menu
Year 3 and 4 *	Weekly spellings and multiplication tables plus reading at least 5 times a week.	At least fortnightly children to choose an activity from the wider curriculum homework menu
Year 5 and 6 *	Weekly spellings and multiplication tables plus reading at least 5 times a week. In the Spring and Summer terms Year 6 children will also be set revision as homework.	Weekly children to choose an activity from the wider curriculum homework menu. These activities will include maths and English enrichment.

*Children in Key Stage 2 with incomplete homework may be expected to complete the work at playtime with an adult.

Supporting Learning and Teaching through Homework

Role of the Class Teacher

When teachers set homework, they will ensure that it is clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom or to consolidate prior learning. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

Class Teachers are expected to:

- Ensure that any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- Provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- Ensure that homework is set consistently every week.
- Set regular homework in an easily followed format.
- Set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- Mark homework appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. Feedback will be given on how well children have met the objectives of the work and may be given in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written.
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and included in the report to parents.

Role of Parents and Carers

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work. At Shoscombe Church School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much as we will need to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

To support your child with Homework, Parents and Carers are asked to:

- Make it clear to your child that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Praise and encourage your child when they take pride in their homework.
- Where possible, provide a peaceful and comfortable place for your child, free from distractions, (such as television and other devices) where they can concentrate on their homework.
- Encourage your child to read as much and as widely as possible.
- Ensure that your child completes the homework and returns it to school at the agreed time.
- We recommend that parents share out homework tasks across the week, rather than leave it to the last moment and have an intensive session the day before it is to be handed in.
- If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If they wish to make a formal complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should put their complaint in writing as stated in the Complaints Procedure Policy.

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

The Head teacher and Governing Body will check compliance of this policy and will review it regularly through further consultation with staff and meetings with parents when appropriate. These planned reviews will evaluate how successful the implementation of the policy is.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

We set homework for all children as a normal part of everyday school life and strongly believe that all children should have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals, and endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. Shoscombe Church School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

Date: Jan 2019

Review: Jan 2020