

WENLOCK CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learning and growing together within the love of God

HOMEWORK POLICY**November 2015****Rationale:**

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 to support the children's learning.

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper *Excellence in Schools*, where homework was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents.

Aims and Objectives:

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 they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

The school provides an optional weekly homework club that children can attend to complete their homework with school support staff.

At Wenlock C of E Junior School we give regular thought to how values can be used to support the child as a reflective learner and promote equality through quality teaching and learning. The school recognises and values all individuals no matter what their ethnicity, gender, disability and special educational need and social background.

Types of Homework:

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

At Key Stage 2 we give children a range of homework activities including reading, spelling, times tables, science, literacy, *RE*, *values*, numeracy and aspects of other curriculum areas. We set homework routinely each week, and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood. Reading, learning spellings or tables are an on-going task.

Where necessary homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Amount of homework:

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 30 - 45 minutes per week on a specific homework task as well as 10 – 15 minutes per night on reading, spelling or tables work. Children in years 5 and 6 are expected to spend approximately 45 - 60 minutes on specific homework tasks as well as 15 – 20 minutes per night on reading, spelling and tables.

Inclusion and homework:

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, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we may refer to those pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

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 and support their child to complete the homework tasks that are set and to 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.

We ask parents to check that homework has been completed and on occasions may ask them to sign the relevant piece of work.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should contact the child's class teacher.

Use of ICT:

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

We are aware that not all children have access to a computer or the internet at home, therefore homework is not set solely for completion on the computer and teachers will advise pupils on the most appropriate method of completion.

Monitoring and review:

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

At Wenlock C of E Junior School we give regular thought to how values can be used to support the child as a reflective learner and promote equality through quality teaching and learning. The school recognises and values all individuals no matter what their ethnicity, gender, disability and special educational need and social background.

Reviewed: November 2015

Review date: November 2018