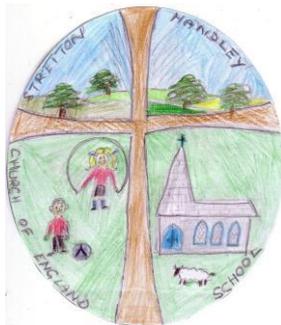


## HOMWORK POLICY



### Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practice /consolidate activities done in the class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills.

### Aims of the policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- To make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school
- Make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

### Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

### Time spent

In the past, the Department for Education advised that Key Stage 1 children should do an hour of homework each week, rising to half an hour per night in Key Stage 2. This advice was withdrawn in 2012, giving schools more freedom and greater flexibility in their approach to homework. Parents have a wide range of views about when and how much homework should be set by the school.

### Creative Homework Grids

At Stretton Handley CE (VC Primary we have moved away from formal homework tasks. Our policy enables the parent and child to work closely at home in ways that they are confident and is relevant to them. The precise amount of time children spend on homework is much less important than the quality of the activities and the way they are planned to support learning and to help children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school, and in adult life.

Across school we encourage children to become increasingly independent and to take responsibility for their own learning. We have developed a creative approach to homework and children choose from a menu of activities/ ideas, deciding what to do and how to present their work. Children make models, posters, leaflets, quizzes, zig zag information books, collage, paintings etc and then share their learning with others in school, developing their speaking, listening, presentation and evaluation skills.

In addition to the topic or theme related activities, children bring home reading books from Reception onwards, with weekly phonics/spellings and times tables from Year 3.

In Year 6, children may have more homework to support them in preparing for SATs and the transition to secondary school. These activities might include maths worksheets, researching a topic, book reviews and grammar exercises.

### **Foundation Stage**

- Reading and sharing books daily
- 'Have a go' books with activities linked to the topic to be completed with a grown up
- Children may be given additional 'top-up' practice of phonic sounds and/or common exception words

### **Key Stage 1**

- Reading/sharing books with parents/carers at least 5 times weekly and recording in the Home-School Diary
- Children will be given a list of spellings to learn which will follow the spelling patterns taught in their phased groups or linked to curriculum
- Learning of multiplication facts 2, 5, 10 (and starting on 3 when ready) using Times Table Rock Stars
- Creative Curriculum Grids (activities linked to the current topic)
- Children may be given additional 'top-up' practice of phonic sounds and/or common exception words

### **Lower Key Stage 2**

- Reading at least 5 times a week
- Learning times tables using Times Tables Rockstars (continuing with 2, 5 and 10 and learning of multiplication facts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 when ready)
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested on the following week
- Creative Curriculum Grids (activities linked to the current topic)
- Children may be given a specific literacy and/or maths activity

### **Upper Key stage 2**

- Reading at least 5 times a week
- Learning of multiplication facts ongoing - all tables to be revised, in any order, mixed and to include division
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested the following week
- Creative Curriculum Grids (activities linked to the current topic)
- Children may be given a specific literacy and/or maths activity
- From the Spring Term, Y6 children will also have SATs revision as homework

### **How you can help your child with their homework**

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it.

The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts
- ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- visits to libraries, museums etc.
- cooking with them
- taking your child swimming
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games
- watching informative TV programmes together
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- gardening and growing plants
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning

Remember: Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building...

**Enthusing your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance. Make it fun!**

*Next review Spring 2024*