

Alverton Primary School



Homework Policy

Source	Alverton
Date Written	October 2014
Reviewed On	
Next Review Date	October 2017
I confirm that this policy has been reviewed and adopted by the Governing Body of Alverton Primary School.	
Chair of Governors	
Date	

Homework can be defined as any activities that children are asked to do outside school time, either on their own or with their parents or carers. At Alverton Primary School we believe that homework should promote a positive link between home and school. Through homework, children can see first-hand home and school working towards common and shared aims in their education. Homework supports and reinforces such work and helps children become more independent as learners.

We are mindful that pupils have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. Our policy and practice therefore recognises the need for the children to have time to be children!

The Purpose of Homework

We see the main benefits of homework as follows:

- developing a home/school partnership and enabling parents to share in their child's education;
- reinforcing and consolidating skills and understanding, giving children further practice of their during the school day;
- extending and supporting school learning, for example through reading; providing opportunities for children to use out of school resources found in the home or other places;
- helping develop the confidence and self-discipline a child needs to study on their own.

Homework needs to be a positive experience. It should be a time of sharing, talking and discussion with an adult at home. Short activities of different kinds - simple games, learning spellings and number facts and, of course, reading together provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

Responsibilities

The school, pupils and parents each have responsibilities regarding homework. The **school** is responsible for setting homework appropriate for the child's age while the **pupils** are responsible for undertaking any homework set and remembering to take their homework home and return it to school in the time given. **Parents and Carers** are responsible for providing their child with time, space, encouragement and support with any homework they have including hearing their child read and assisting in the learning of tables and spellings.

Reading

Regular reading is vital and for younger children at Alverton Primary School homework will very largely consist of regular reading to parents and carers. Reading includes discussion about a book and its pictures, not necessarily always reading the words. We encourage reading with your child on a regular basis.

The Government's Homework Guidelines state that: "All primary school age children should either read to their parents or carers, listen to them reading or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least ten to twenty minutes a day."

Spellings

Spellings are issued most weeks from Year 1 onwards.

Expectations for individual year groups (In addition to Reading and Spelling)

Reception

In Reception, parents are invited to read every evening with their child. As we are fostering a life-long commitment to learning, sharing picture books together is greatly encouraged. Books are always available from the school library to share at home.

In addition, the children will bring home books from the school reading scheme which are aimed at the correct level for the individual child and which they should read every day. They will also bring home lists of “key words” to practise.

Play-based writing and numeracy activities are suggested in regular correspondence to parents to support these curriculum areas. Occasionally, there may be a small, topic-based homework, such as bringing in an item from home.

Years 1 and 2

Reading books are issued and changed as children progress through the reading scheme. When pupils complete the reading scheme, appropriate reading books are allocated. Weekly spellings are sent home to reinforce spelling patterns and key words. Topic related homework, which includes Science, Maths and Writing, is sent home in a six week block allowing children and parents to choose the order in which they do them.

Years 3 and 4

Each half-term, the children are provided with a selection of approximately twenty activities linked to the class learning and covering a range of areas. From this, the children are asked to complete at least one homework activity of their choice each week and may complete more if they wish. They are encouraged to choose activities across the range of subjects. Times tables should be regularly practised.

Years 5 and 6

Building on the homework grids from Years 3 and 4, the children will be given a grid of activities linked to their class learning and to areas or questions which they have identified themselves. They are asked to choose one activity from the grid each week. In addition to this, they will be set one piece each of English and Maths homework which supports the week’s learning. In the build up to SATS, Year 6 may receive additional pieces of homework in English and Maths.

English and Maths homework is given out at the beginning of the week and due in by the end of the week. Each pupil is provided with a homework book for Maths and English which the teachers use to set the work. My Maths will sometimes be used instead of the book. Both English and Maths homework will be set at least once each week but this may vary depending on the time of year.

We expect homework to be completed. Children may be asked to complete homework which has not been done at home in break times if appropriate.

Homework Feedback

We recognise that pupils benefit from feedback for their homework. Written homework will be acknowledged: this may be informal and / or general verbal feedback to individuals, groups or classes.

For the English and Maths homework set in Years 5 and 6, teachers will check that homework has been completed and the homework will be marked. There may be general feedback to the class or oral feedback to individuals or groups. If a child has had difficulties with the homework set, they will be supported with this.

We recognise and reward children for their efforts in homework tasks in accordance with our reward systems when it is appropriate to do so. Each class also displays a selection of pupils’ homework for everyone to enjoy.