

# Alverton Primary School



## Homework Policy

Last Reviewed	June 2021
Next Review Date	June 2024
<p>I confirm that this policy has been reviewed and adopted by the Governing Body of Alverton Primary School.</p> <p>Chair of Governors</p> <p>Date</p>	

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 that home and school are working together 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!

We have taken into account the views of staff, pupils and parents when reviewing this policy.

### **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;
- 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, times tables and spellings are the key aspects of our Homework Policy.**

### **Reading**

Regular reading is vital and is the most important aspect of our policy. As well as reading regularly to parents and carers, reading includes discussion about a book and its pictures, not necessarily always just reading the words. We encourage reading with your child on a daily basis from Reception all the way through to Year 6, both sharing stories and listening to the children read.

Reading books are issued and changed as children progress through the reading scheme. When pupils complete the reading scheme, appropriate reading books are allocated. While the book

read may not always be the reading scheme book your child comes home with, it is important that the scheme book is read regularly to support the teaching children receive in class and to build their fluency.

### **Times Tables**

Pupils should regularly practise the times tables they are learning at school and reinforce those previously learned. The aim is that children will be fluent in all tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.

### **Spellings**

Spellings are issued most weeks from Year 1 onwards and should be practised regularly.

### **Topic Grids**

Each term, the children are provided with a selection of activities linked to the class learning and covering a range of areas. From this, the children can choose to complete homework activities of their choice across the term. They are encouraged to choose activities across the range of subjects.

Activities on the topic grid are optional. We encourage children to complete a selection of the activities but there is no pressure to do so as we recognise the challenges that this can cause. Tasks that are brought into school are recognised and celebrated.

### **Homework in Reception**

In Reception, parents are encouraged 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.