



VAUGHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY

Date of Policy: Autumn Term 2022

Next Review: Autumn Term 2024

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff.

Aims of the Homework Policy

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils' and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Maths and English.
- Encourage pupils' to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to Secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

Homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older but may also vary throughout the year e.g. Year 1,2, Year 4 and Year 6 (Year Groups undertaking statutory assessments).
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. Homework will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from Reception to Year 6.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the class teacher. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spellings, timestables

Daily reading should take place and last for a minimum of 15 minutes per day for all pupils from Nursery to Year 6.

The following are recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities set and linked to each Year Group (with the exception of daily activities such as reading, spellings and timestables):

- Reception –20 minutes per week
- Years 1 and 2 – 30 minutes per week
- Years 3 and 4 – 1 hour per week
- Years 5 and 6 – 30 minutes x3 per week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

Homework Tasks

Listed below, for each Year Group at Vaughan Primary School, are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. The vast majority of homework tasks will now be set on the school's online learning platform MS Teams.

Homework activities may change to meet the needs of the pupils involved or reflect specific activities that might be occurring in class. Homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose, be differentiated where appropriate and be designed to assist pupils to enrich or support their learning outside of the classroom.

All pupils in years 2-6 have access to a Timestable Rockstars account which can be accessed at home and is designed to support recall and fluency of timetables. Similarly, Pupils in Reception and year 1 have access to a Numbots account in order to support fluency and recall of addition and subtraction number bonds.

Reception

- Phonics and key word vocabulary activities

Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be returned by the following Friday.

Home reading is set on a Friday.

Year 1

- Spelling tasks.
- Reading.
- Alternate Maths (alternate mymaths) and English (weekly).

Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be returned completed by the following Wednesday.

Year 2

- Spelling tasks.
- Reading.
- Alternate Maths (alternate mymaths) and English (weekly).
- In the Spring term additional homework linked to SAT's may be given every week.

Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be returned completed by the following Wednesday.

Year 3

- Spelling tasks.
- Reading.
- Maths (alternate with My Maths) and English.

Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be returned completed by the following Wednesday.

Year 4

- Spelling tasks.
- Reading.
- Maths (alternate with My Maths) and English.

Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be returned completed by the following Wednesday.

Year 5

- Spelling tasks.
- Reading.
- Maths (alternate with My Maths) (weekly).
- English (weekly).
- Science (weekly).

English Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be returned the following Monday.

Maths Homework is set on a Wednesday and needs to be returned on the Friday.

Science Homework is set on a Monday and needs to be returned on the Wednesday.

Year 6

Transition Project

At the end of Year 5, Year 5 pupils may be given the opportunity to complete a Transition Project in preparation for their entry into the Autumn Term in Year 6. This project usually takes the form of a piece of work linked to one of the curriculum areas the pupils will be studying as part of the Year 6 curriculum. There will be the chance to showcase their work to their teacher in Year 6 and although the homework is not compulsory, it is a good opportunity which allows the pupils to participate in a Year Group team building activity and be rewarded for being proactive.

Weekly homework:

- Spelling tasks.
- Reading.
- Maths (alternate with My Maths) (weekly).
- English (weekly).
- Topic (weekly) including after reintegration of Science curriculum from Spring 2021. (weekly).

English Homework is set on a Monday and needs to be returned completed by Wednesday.

Maths Homework is set on a Wednesday and needs to be returned completed by Friday

Topic Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be returned completed by the following Monday.

Holiday Periods

Year 2 and Year 6 pupils may be asked to complete homework over holiday periods in order to consolidate learning linked to their statutory assessments. Parents will be notified if these Year Groups will be receiving homework over a holiday period. No other Year Groups will give homework to pupils over holiday periods. The completion of homework is an expectation, but there will be no sanctions if your child has not completed their holiday revision homework.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to pupils giving guidance of how the homework may be presented.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine using the MS Teams learning portal, interactive online subscriptions or paper-based activities.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across the Year Group.
- To ensure homework is purposeful and links to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise pupils who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To monitor the completion of the homework set and follow up on where homework is not completed by pupils and feedback given as appropriate.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable, quiet place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with completing homework activities and checking finished work.
- Follow the school's instructions or guidance for accessing and uploading homework linked to the online learning platform MS Teams when completed.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can support learning.

We are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. At Vaughan Primary School, we take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents are involved. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do by themselves. 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 via their class inbox email address. Additionally, if a parent feels that they are completing their child's work or giving more support than they would deem reasonable, then they need to have a discussion with the class teacher about the appropriateness of the homework.

Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Homework Policy (Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team).
- To talk with parents when appropriate – including responding to feedback from parent questionnaires.
- To discuss and review, with staff, how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

What happens if my child does not hand in the homework?

The Home School Agreement, agreed as a contract with the school and signed by parents on their child's admission clearly states;

- Parents/Carers – support my child in their homework and complete the homework diary (Juniors) and sign the reading log (Reception to Year 5).
- Pupil – do my class work and homework as well as I can

If there are exceptional reasons for children not completing the homework please let the teacher know by using the class inbox email address. For the younger pupils, we hope that encouragement from home and school will be sufficient to ensure the completion of the homework. If homework is not completed, and no good reason is given by parents/carers then there will be a loss of golden time, in school. This is for all pupils from Year 1 – Year 5. Teachers may contact individual parents if homework is regularly missed on at least 2 occasions in a half term. Non-completion of homework will be logged and recorded on your child's report.

Year 6

In preparation for Secondary school, teachers in Year 6 will monitor the completion of homework throughout the year. It will be noted on your child's report, if they fail to do the following:

- Homework not completed to the expectation and standard of class work
- Failure to submit homework set on the online learning platform MS Teams or other format on at least 2 occasions in a half term with no parental explanation using the class inbox email address

If homework has been set on the learning platform MS Teams, the expectation is that the work will be uploaded by the following day after the homework was expected in. Subsequently, if this happens twice within a half term, parents will be contacted by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Pupils who are blatantly disregarding school policy will need to complete a homework detention with a Senior Leader during the school day.

An important part of Vaughan Primary School's Homework Policy is to not only give pupils personal responsibility for learning beyond the classroom but also to prepare them for the transition to Secondary school where the volume of homework will increase and sanctions will be in place for non-compliance with homework expectations. In addition, some pupils' may be offered the chance to attend homework clubs where they will receive support with their work. Parents will be advised if their child has been invited to attend any organised homework club.

We hope that the measures outlined above will be used on a minimal amount of occasions.

General points to note:

- If pupils are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the pupil was too ill to work.
- If a pupil is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, for an operation etc, self-isolation due COVID-19, homework may be set via the online learning platform MS Teams. In such circumstances the teacher should consult with the Headteacher first as to the appropriateness of the request. The Headteacher's decision is final.
- The school will not give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
- Vaughan Primary School's Homework Policy does not extend to preparation for 11+ exams. Parents will have to seek extra-curricular tuition and resources outside of school.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils 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. Vaughan Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to achieve their full potential providing access to learning materials for those who may be unable to utilise the MS Teams platform.

FINALLY BUT IMPORTANTLY:

We cannot emphasise enough that children should have leisure time, and time to take part in out of school activities, clubs, meet with friends and enjoy family time etc. Homework should not take over and fill all their spare time during this important time in their development. Any additional activities you can do with your child, such as talking with your child, cooking, reading, visiting the library, visiting Places of Interest and playing games, will all contribute to their supporting their learning.