



## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

**Date of Policy: Autumn Term 2018**

**Next Review: Autumn Term 2020**

### **Introduction**

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Autumn Term 2018 and is to be reviewed biannually.

### **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 2 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:

- 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.

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 and be designed to assist pupils to enrich or support their learning outside of the classroom.

### **Reception**

- Phonics and Key word vocabulary activities

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

### **Year 1**

- Spelling tasks.
- Reading.
- Alternate Maths 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 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, in the Meet the Teacher session, Year 5 pupils are given the opportunity to complete a Transition Project in preparation for their 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.

## Year 6

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

## 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.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in 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 mark homework appropriately, in line with school guidance and give feedback to pupils.

## 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 guidance on the inside of their child's homework books.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can support learning.
- (Year 3 and 4) To sign Homework diaries weekly
- (Year 5 and 6) To sign Homework diaries after each homework has been completed

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 get

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. Additionally, if a parent feels that **they** are completing their child's work then they need to have a discussion with the class teacher about the appropriateness of the homework.

### **Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body**

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and 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 good reasons for children not completing the homework please let the teacher know by writing a note in their homework book (Infant pupils) or making a note in the homework diary (Junior pupils). 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. This is for all pupils from Year 1 – Year 5. Teachers will talk to individual parents if homework is regularly missed. 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 in a pupil's homework diary, if they fail to do the following:

- Non – completion of homework with no parental note
- Homework not completed to the expectation and standard of class work
- Failure to have Homework diaries signed against each piece of homework

If homework is not completed, the pupil's homework book will be returned to them and will need to be **brought in completed, the following day**. If homework is then not returned, parents will receive a letter and an email. Subsequently, if this happens twice within a half term, parents will be invited in for a meeting with 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 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, a parent may request work to be given. **In such circumstances the teacher should consult with the Head Teacher first as to the appropriateness of the request. The Headteacher's decision is final.**
- If parents choose to take authorised or unauthorised absence in term time, it is not possible to give pupils' homework.
- 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.

### **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.

