



OLVESTON C.E.V.C. Primary SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

'A good well-managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.'
(DfES Homework Guidance Document)

RATIONALE

The aim of this policy is to ensure a whole school consistent approach to homework and to make homework manageable for all concerned.

As the primary educators of their children, parents are encouraged to support and reinforce the shared expectations of school. Learning is a shared responsibility between children, parents and staff.

In primary school the purpose of homework changes as children get older. For younger children developing a partnership with parents or carers, and involving them actively in children's learning, is the key purpose. As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning.

Purpose of Homework

- To develop an effective partnership between school, parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school in helping all children to achieve their potential;
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- To exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
- To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to class work;
- To extend school learning, for example, through additional reading;
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study independently.

Homework tasks may include:

- Reading at home with/to an adult; (Please use Home Reading Books/Cards);
- Practising and revising basic skills (spellings, tables);
- Research for particular topics (using a range of sources); Own written work not internet print outs.
- Follow-up work; (It is not recommended that children be set extended pieces of written literacy work as homework. Such work is best done within school to ensure understanding and a quality end product.)

Suggested time allocations for homework:

- Years 1 and 2 = 1 hour/week
- Years 3 and 4 = 90 minutes/week
- Years 5 and 6 = 30 minutes/day

N.B. These are guidelines only and are not statutory.

(A typical Y5/6 homework week may include: 30 minutes of maths; 45 minutes on topic research/follow-up; reading 3 times a week for 15 minutes and learning of spellings for 30 minutes = 2 hours 30 minutes.)

Daily reading recommended by the government for **all primary children** can be done as part of the homework.

In the Foundation Stage children take home tricky words and letter sounds to learn. Children may also be given tasks which involve finding things out and bringing in objects from home. Parents are encouraged to share books daily with their children.

Making homework manageable:

We promote independence by encouraging children to take responsibility for their homework. Teachers will always be clear about homework expectations and expect each child to share homework with parents/carers.

Homework should not be a stressful experience between parent and child. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Please contact school if this is happening. Depending on the task set/age of children, homework may be marked together in class.

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