



Woodcroft Academy



Homework Policy September 2023

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Reviewed by: Amy Jones

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Homework Guidance

Aims and objectives

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in English and Maths.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

Benefits of parental support

- Parents provide a significant amount of quality time with their children. Parents and children talk, work and spend time together as homework activities are discussed and completed.
- Parents become more knowledgeable about the school curriculum. Over a period of time, parents gain a clearer insight into what is being taught at school and the requirements of the National Curriculum. This often becomes evident at parents' evenings when many develop the confidence to discuss curricular issues with teachers.
- Parents become more involved in the assessment of children's progress. Parents develop a clearer appreciation of their children's true strengths and weaknesses. This helps to overcome any mismatch of perceptions between home and school.
- Esteem between parents, pupils and teachers is enhanced. The quality of responses generated by some homework activities may enable teachers to gain a different perspective on some pupils and their families, particularly those where previously, communication may have been limited.
- Promoting Family Learning activities. The research and discussion work generated by homework activities can help to create a family learning ethos within the pupils' homes.
- When parents reinforce the work of the school at home, there is a potential for raising standards further.

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What is the role of the Academy?

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.

What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

What is the role of the parent?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Types of Homework

Knowledge Organisers

At the start of each term, class teachers will send home knowledge organiser for key areas of learning in the wider curriculum for the term. These will be shared on Showbie and on the school website. This will allow parents to see what the children are learning in school and build upon this at home if they choose to.

Reading

At Woodcroft we use a variety of teaching and learning styles to teach reading skills in order to help all pupils. Our aim is to ensure that children leave Woodcroft as confident readers, developing their knowledge skills along the way and cementing a love for reading at the core of all that we do.

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As such, in school we teach Phonics and Early Reading in EYFS and Y1, and move to Pathways to Read from Y2 – Y4. Phonics focuses on developing the skill of reading, whilst Pathways to Read from Year 2 onwards builds on this by ensuring fluency is developed alongside exploring key reading domains to support the children's understanding of the text.

Therefore, as part of our Homework Policy, we ask that children do the following at home to support their learning in school:

All Years:

- Reading diaries to be brought in daily
- Reading with an adult at home 3 – 5 times a week
- Practise Common Exception Words and Tricky Words. A set will be sent out by your class teacher for each half term.

Spellings

We teach Spellings from Y2 – Y4. There are 4 discrete spelling sessions a week, with objectives taken from the National Curriculum to ensure a comprehensive and progressive programme is in place. The learning each week combines consolidation of previously taught spellings in conjunction with new teaching opportunities. Children have opportunity to practice their new spellings during English written work, in addition to other opportunities across the curriculum. Research suggests that weekly spelling tests are not conducive to improved spelling awareness, and therefore, we will be completing a recommended 'word exploration' task as directed by your class teacher each week.

As such, we ask that the children to the following at home to support their learning in school:

KS2:

- Practise Common Exception Words. A set will be sent out by your class teacher for each half term.
- Complete a 'Word Exploration' Task as designated by your class teacher.

If you would like to challenge your child ...

- Discuss with them spellings that they have learnt during the week, asking them their meaning, how they might use them in a sentence and whether they have any additional words/spellings that they wanted to write down to explore.

Maths

At Woodcroft we aim to develop children who have a good understanding of number and quick recall of number facts. Therefore as part of their homework each week, teachers will set an activity linked to the relevant Key Instant Recall Facts for the half term.

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As such, we ask that the children to the following at home to support their learning in school:

- Complete KIRF activity as directed by the class teacher
- Access TT Rockstars to develop times table knowledge
- KS2 – In addition, complete an activity to reinforce learning that has taken place in school that week.
- Access Power Maths games linked to skills taught in school via the link sent by the class teacher.

Homework will be sent in the children's homework book each week. Children can complete any written tasks and practice spellings in their book. Individual teachers will give guidance of when homework is given and needs to be returned.

Homework in the Foundation Stage

Learning together is the emphasis for children in the Foundation Stage. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

What type of work will my child get?

Each week, we ask that the children follow the reading guidance above. In addition to their reading, each week children will be given an activity to complete with you at home; this will be stuck into their homework book. We will endeavour to make these activities as fun as possible, they are not meant to be time consuming or onerous. Activities may link to: our current theme, a skill we have been practising, maths, phonics, a nursery rhyme of the week or simply child interest. Spending a few minutes with your child each week will enable them to share with you what they have been learning about and give you the chance to help them develop their skills and confidence further.

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Homework Overview Grid

	Daily Homework	Weekly Homework	Unit related homework
EYFS (30 mins per week)	Reading Practice phonics tricky words	Maths, phonics or wider curriculum activity Family Talk time	Knowledge organisers to support learning
Key Stage 1 (1hour per week)	Reading Spelling tricky words TT Rockstars	KIRF activity Word exploration activity	Wider curriculum knowledge organisers Power Maths games
Key Stage 2 (1.5 hours per week)	Reading Spelling - Common Exception words TT Rockstars	KIRF activity Word exploration activity Supporting maths and grammar activity	Wider curriculum knowledge organisers Power Maths game

Equal Opportunities

Homework is planned such that it takes into account the principles of equality and promotes positive attitudes towards diversity. Homework contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.

Special Educational Needs

Homework is set for all children as a normal part of school life and tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

Tasks will:

- have a very clear focus and time-guideline;
- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed;
- help develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- be creative and not purely written assignments;
- be manageable for teachers.

Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

Occasionally, children who work in small groups or one to one situation with teaching assistants will sometimes be given extra homework. In these cases, children should

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complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise. If the child is finding they have too much work, then parents should speak to the child's teacher or teaching assistant who is providing the support.

What about children who don't complete homework?

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework, then the teacher will speak to parents to find out why. There may be occasions when a child will miss playtime or some of a lunch time if they have not completed homework.

How will the homework be marked?

Teachers assess children's progress during class-based activities. Comprehensive marking of work is carried out in exercise books used in school. Homework will occasionally be marked in depth, and this will follow the school's marking policy. Homework will usually be acknowledged by staff with an inked stamper.

Teachers may change the type and amount of homework given to a child depending on events in school, work not completed in lessons and individual needs. Parents are encouraged to make comments in the children's homework book and reading record each day. Teachers generally will not mark homework that is handed in late.