



St Werburgh's Primary School

Homework Policy

This policy has been written following the removal of government guidelines on homework that Primary Schools should set. We have reviewed current research findings compiled by the education endowment foundation who state that 'effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support.' (EEF toolkit, 2017) Research evidence also suggests that short, focused tasks that relate directly to what is being taught and which are built upon in school are most effective. There is a definite benefit in regular practice to develop fluency in many skills which children learn at primary school. The homework which we set at St Werburgh's Primary focuses on regular practice in reading, spelling and mathematics. We also aim to encourage parental involvement and engagement in our curriculum through the sharing of our product books or 'passports' and family learning projects.

The aim of this policy is to ensure a consistent school wide approach and to make our aims clear to all members of our school community.

The purpose of homework that we set:

- Is to provide an opportunity for parents and carers to be involved in the academic development of their child.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To provide opportunities for the sharing of skills and learning at home.

The first skill that we endeavour to develop fluency in, is reading. All children from the second term in Reception will bring home a reading book and a reading record book every day. This book should be at just the right level of challenge for each child to complete by themselves. Daily reading at home is perhaps the most important element of homework that we set. Throughout the year we run workshops for parents on supporting children with reading.

In Reception and Year 1, children may bring home sounds and key words to learn. From Year 2 upwards they will bring home spellings to learn each week and they will also be asked to practise their times tables at home. The National Curriculum expectation is that all children will know the times table to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.

In addition, teachers set cross curricular learning projects at least twice a year. These are linked to their enquiries – information about what these are is shared with parents and carers through termly curriculum maps. These projects are open ended and cross curricular where possible. Examples of projects which have been set include: creating a model of a Viking long ship; making a product that celebrates a country in Europe; creating a family coat of arms and creating their own understanding of life in a rainforest. These challenges are designed to be open ended, to encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning and to collaborate with others in and outside school to produce a piece of work to share in a class gallery or feedback session. They are also, hopefully, fun to complete and something which the whole family can be involved in. These projects will sometimes

be linked to a 'product' in the school passport which all children have a copy of. Teachers commit to providing opportunities for children to complete 15 of the 20 listed under their year group whilst they are at St Werburgh's Primary. We hope that parents, carers and pupils will seek out opportunities for completing the other 5 at home or in the wider community. These products were compiled by parents, teachers, pupils and governors when we originally put together our Irresistible Curriculum. They are experiences/opportunities we hope that our pupils will have had by the time they leave us in Year 6. The products are wide ranging and include things like learning to sew on a button and to bake a cake, as well as watching a sunrise.

We understand that some children, and some parents and carers, will want there to be more formal homework than we set. We provide all children from Year upwards with a 'Sumdog' log in, so they can consolidate maths calculation skills that they are learning in class in a fun way online. We would encourage children that want to use this programme outside school, to do so.

The home/school partnership is very important to us. School staff, pupils, parents and carers all have a responsibility to make this partnership effective and to ensure that homework is purposeful.

Teachers will:

- Communicate with parents about what their child will learn each term through a class letter and curriculum map.
- Ensure all children have a reading diary and appropriate reading book.
- Provide support for parents and carers on helping their children with reading at home.
- Set weekly spellings from Year 2 upwards, these will be from a scheme we use called 'No Nonsense spelling' and are from the National Curriculum.
- Provide their class with log in information for 'Sumdog'.
- Set learning projects linked to their class enquiries at least twice a year.
- Create a gallery of project work at least once a year.
- Provide the opportunity in school for children to experience at least 15 of the 20 'products' in their school 'passport' for their year group.

Pupils will:

- Read at home and return their book and reading record daily.
- Take responsibility for practising and learning spellings and times tables at home.
- Try their best to complete open ended projects linked to their enquiries.
- Take responsibility for asking for help with homework if they need it.

As outlined in the Home/School Agreement, Parents and Carers will:

- Give due importance to listening to their children read on a regular basis.
- Assist with the weekly learning of spellings and times tables.
- Encourage children to persevere and praise them when they do.
- Support their children to complete open ended projects, which are linked to enquiries.
- Speak to their child's class teacher if they have any concerns or questions about homework.

Other documents that you may find it helpful to refer to are:

English policy, Maths policy, St Werburgh's Primary book of products, Curriculum maps.

Written by Helen Faulkner, November 2017

Ratified by Governing Body: November 2017