



# The Orchard Primary School

## Homework Policy

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Member of Staff Responsible:	Bradley Williams
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### THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

As a child progresses through primary school, homework has some or all of the following purposes depending on the age of the child and format of the homework:

- It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding learnt in school;
- It extends school learning, for example through additional reading;
- It provides opportunities for children to use out of school resources (e.g. books and Information Technology) found in the home or other places such as libraries;
- It fosters the partnership between the school and parents in achieving the aims of the school for the benefit of the child;
- It helps develop the confidence and self-discipline the child needs to study on their own.

### AIMS and RESPONSIBILITIES

Mindful of the above purposes of homework, our aims in setting homework are to:

- Give children further practice of the skills and concepts learnt during the school day;
- Extend and support the learning experiences in school via reinforcement and revision;
- Provide opportunities to use and apply concepts learnt in school;
- Enable parents to share in their child's education in partnership with the school;
- Provide progression towards independence and individual responsibility in the Upper Juniors to prepare the children for transfer to secondary school;
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;

The school, parents and pupils each have responsibilities regarding Homework. These are as follows.

**School** is responsible for setting homework appropriate to the child's age;

**Parents** are responsible for providing their child with time, space, encouragement and support with any homework they have including hearing their child read and assisting in the learning of tables and spellings;

**Pupils** are responsible for undertaking any homework set and remembering to take home and return to school all books and equipment needed to undertake their homework.

### TYPE AND QUANTITY OF HOMEWORK

We follow the government's recommendation that the main focus of homework for children in primary school should be on Literacy and mathematics, with other work possibly being added to the homework program for older children.

#### Literacy

We expect parents to hear their child read frequently at home to practice the skills of reading taught in school during Literacy lessons. A reading record is provided for parents to enable them to communicate to school any comments about their child's reading practice. The teacher checks these reading records.

#### Mathematics

Throughout the school the children are asked to learn number bond patterns/times tables as appropriate for the age of the children. In Key Stage 1 and lower KS2 other numeracy related homework tasks might occasionally be given. In the upper KS2 classes more formal mathematics homework is set regularly in rotation.



### Other Homework for Older Children

To prepare the children for secondary transfer tests, children in Years 4 (from spring term 2) and 5 are given homework relating to verbal reasoning tests. Parents can opt in or out of this via a letter sent out to parents. This homework is set weekly and marked with the children in class.

### HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

- Children bring completed homework into school on the day it is due. If work set was preparation for a coming lesson therefore, they may find this subsequent lesson difficult to complete if they have not done the preliminary task.
- School to encourage parental support in building up a homework routine and training their child to do their homework with care and to pack completed work in their bags for the agreed date of return.
- Where appropriate, to ask a child who has not completed a piece of homework to complete it during a morning's break time.
- School to contact parents by the class teacher and subsequently Head Teacher if homework is persistently not done.
- If there is a valid reason, (e.g. family crisis or illness) for a child being unable to do their homework, parents are asked to inform the class teacher at the first available opportunity, either in writing or verbally.

### TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOMEWORK

EYFS	Reading Daily Handwriting
Years 1	Reading x3 a week Maths Spelling (Linked to letters and sounds) Times tables (Summer 2)
Year 2	Reading x3 a week Spelling (Linked to letters and sounds) Times tables 1x Literacy or 1x Maths or 1x Science or Topic per week (Spring/Summer)
Years 3 and 4	Reading x3 a week Spelling Times tables 1 x Literacy or 1 x Maths per week
Year 5	Reading x3 a week Spelling Times tables 1x Literacy or 1x Maths or 1x Science per week (minimum 30 minutes)
Year 6	Reading x3 a week Literacy (minimum 30 minutes) Maths (minimum 30 minutes) Spelling Grammar (not every week, more regular closer to SATs)

Reading can be their reading books and other literature available e.g. newspaper etc.

### HOMEWORK SUPPORT FACILITIES

In order to support children's learning, all children have the opportunity to complete homework during their break times, should they need to do so for whatever reason. Also, the school's open-door policy allows all staff to be made aware of any issues that may be significant to any child's ability to complete his or her homework. In addition the school will be providing an opportunity, after school, to complete their homework in a school run homework club. This club is optional for children and will allow them to complete homework with support from staff in school. However, if children persist in not completing their homework, teachers will insist that these children will attend the after school homework club. This is not seen as a punishment but as

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a support procedure to ensure children complete homework within in the set time limits and to an acceptable standard.

### HOMEWORK FEEDBACK

We recognise that pupils benefit from feedback on their homework as soon as possible. Much of the homework, particularly in Lower KS1, may not be formal paper exercises requiring formal marking.

Therefore, much of the feedback may be verbal from the teacher to the child; the format and timing of the feedback depending on the nature of the homework and when the teacher assesses it.

With the older children, teachers will check that homework has been completed, and, depending on the task, children may 'class mark' or 'self mark' their work under the direction of the teacher or teaching assistant. (Teachers do not always have time in the school day to mark individual children's homework) This may be followed by general feedback to the class.

We recognise and will reward the children for their efforts in homework tasks in accordance with our school rewards system, i.e. with House Points or as part of our Sharing Assembly, when it is appropriate to do so. The school also welcomes constructive feedback from parents about their child's homework. To enable parents to feed back about a child's reading we provide Home - School reading records described earlier.

### ABSENCES

Children who miss lessons due to being absent from school or being withdrawn from lessons to attend peripatetic instrument tuition may be given as homework the work they have missed, if appropriate. **Where children are absent for longer due to medical reasons, the school reserves the right to decide whether providing work is appropriate.**