

## 1 Rationale

- 1.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. At Willow Brook Primary, we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 1.2 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

## 2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:
- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
  - to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
  - to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
  - to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
  - to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
  - to help children develop good work habits for the future.

## 3 Structure and amount of homework

| Year Group           | Recommended Time Allocation                            | Type of Work   |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Nursery              | Nursery children take home library books (once weekly) |  |
| Reception and Year 1 | 1 hour per week  | Maths/English (alternate weeks) Yr1<br>Reading books (daily) Yr 1 & Rec<br>Spelling Yr 1                           |
| Year 2               | 1 hour per week  | Maths/English (alternate weeks)<br>Reading books (daily)<br>Spellings + Tables based on Maths challenge every week |

|               |                    |   |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| Years 3 and 4 | 1½ hours per week  | Maths/English (every week)<br>Reading<br>Spelling<br>Times tables                 |
| Year 5        | 30 minutes per day | Maths/English (each week)<br>Reading<br>Spelling<br>Times tables + Mental Maths   |
| Year 6        | 30 minutes per day | English<br>Maths<br>Science<br>Spelling<br>Reading<br>Times tables + Mental Maths |

- 3.1 In addition to this, all pupils from Year 1-6 will be given a ‘Speaking and Listening’ homework every other week in preparation for the Big Write session. This is an opportunity for pupils to share ideas with parents/carers and discuss what they intend to write about once back at school.
- 3.2 Also each year group is expected to complete a high quality topic based research project either during the term or during a holiday. The research project will either link with the current topic or in preparation for a future topic. Guidelines and ideas will be given to the pupils on what to include and how to present. This is an opportunity for pupils to be creative and demonstrate their talents.
- 3.3 A homework book and a plastic cover will be issued to all pupils. It is the pupil’s responsibility to look after this book. Pupils are allowed to put a covering or decorate their homework book, however, random pictures, graffiti or doodles are not permitted. All homework books will have their plastic covers on at all times.

## 4 Pupil Feedback

- 4.1 Pupils will receive feedback on their homework in a number of ways:
- Directly from the teacher or LSA, through written comments (e.g. in homework or reading diaries) or verbal praise and feedback (e.g. on their level of success in completing a project or activity).
  - Marked Tests (e.g. spelling, times tables)

## 5 Pupils with special educational needs

- 5.1 We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all 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. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the school profile of special needs, we refer, wherever possible, to the SEN Pro-Forma.

## **6 How Parents and Carers can help**

- 6.1 Children make greatest progress when their parents/carers are actively involved in their learning.
- Help and guide your child, but don't do the work for them.
  - Try to provide a quiet area, where they are able to concentrate on their homework.
  - Ensure you know when your child is given homework and when it must be returned.
  - Let the teacher know if your child has been unable to do their homework for any reason.
- 6.2 We ask parents to check that children return their homework and to discuss this with the class teacher at consultations
- 6.3 If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Head of School.