



Stebbing Primary School Homework Policy

**Created/updated September 2017
Ratified by Gov. Body October 2017
Due for review 2019**

Introductory statement

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Consolidate and apply basic skills and knowledge.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

The nature of homework

Homework may be set in different forms. There are a number of points to consider when setting homework.

READING

Our priority at Stebbing is to ensure that children are read to and listened to. This can take on many different forms. We are keen to encourage children to read a range of different materials and not always focus on their reading books.

SPELLING

Children have a spelling or phonics homework set. These activities which aid the learning of key spelling patterns and sounds can be done in a variety of ways. Children in key stage 1 and up have a spelling book which comes home with the suggested activities included. This should be completed weekly.

UNHOMEWORK

Other homework will be set by each class. We have adopted an Unhomework approach after attending training delivered by Mark Creasy. This has been outlined to all parents in their child's class guide. This information will feature on our website.

Unhomework principles: The aim of Unhomework is to give the children an opportunity to be creative, independent and make their own decisions about what they want to work on at home, which is in line with our whole school Montessori ethos. By year 6 we hope to have prepared children well enough to enable them to make their own decisions about what needs to be worked on, why it needs to be worked on and how they are going to work on it. The children are able to select anything to work on; with the emphasis being on the fact that they have planned how they are going to achieve and complete it.

KS1 expectations The children are encouraged to choose an activity from a jar in the classroom and they decide how long it will take them to complete. This will then be shared on a Friday. The class teacher will have a record of who has completed homework over the academic year.

KS2 expectations (Woodpeckers) The children have a pot of lolly sticks, which they have to choose from, with lots of open ended activities on and over a 2 week period they will complete it and have it ready to share on a Friday.

KS2 expectations (Kestrels & Owls) Each child will:

1. Decide on what needs doing.
2. Set an appropriate homework to tackle this.
3. Create the criteria for their homework assessment.
4. Complete the homework by the deadline set.
5. Self review
6. Peer review
7. Teacher assessment
8. Repeat

Children have to complete at least 2 pieces of homework every half term.

Owls: (From September 2018) Each child has a homework planner where they have to complete 12 unhomework 12 different headings (2 a half term). This is as a result of some children struggling to generate their own ideas for their homework.

Here are some points that are considered whenever setting any homework:

- The nature and type of homework changes during a pupil's school career.
- The amount of homework should increase as children get older. This will still follow the Unhomework principles.
- It will not always come in written form.
- It will be set regularly from Reception to Year 6.
- It should not cause unnecessary stress on pupils, parents or teachers.

Recommended time allocation

Homework should not be too onerous for anyone within a pupil's family. Children will normally have a week to complete their homework, unless otherwise directed. The decision as to the time and deadline will be negotiated and discussed with the class.

The following are Government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities:

Year 1-2: 1 hour per week

Year 3-4: 1.5 hours per week

Year 5-6: 30 minutes per day

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of the homework task to parents and pupils, either verbally or through a written explanation of the homework set.
- To set up homework to follow a regular routine.
- To ensure homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum planned.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To provide feedback during homework share. Children have the opportunity to share their homework with the rest of the class and explain what they have been doing. Often a piece of homework will be chosen and rewarded accordingly. This varies from class to class, but homework is often chosen if it has been completed largely without help from an adult or if children have produced work which they have taken extra time and care over.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable space for their child to complete their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.

- To support their child with all homework activities.
- To explain to the children that they support the school's views of homework and the value it holds.

General

- If a child is ill (in KS2) on the day homework is set, it will be the child's responsibility to find out what the homework is for that week.
- It is very rare that homework will be set and expected in the next day.
- Should parents have any queries or concerns, they should make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.
- If homework is not completed in Woodpeckers, Kestrels or Owls a sanction may be enforced.