



Stebbing Primary School Unhomework Policy

**Created/updated May 2021
Ratified by Gov. Body June 2021
Due for review May 2023**

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 transition to secondary school.

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. Children who read consistently throughout the week (four different days) will receive a reading star sticker, be recognised in our weekly celebration assembly for their achievement and be rewarded at the end of the term for their positive attitude towards reading.

Spelling

Children have a spelling or phonics homework set on a weekly basis. These activities, which aid the learning of key spelling patterns and sounds, can be done in a variety of ways. All children will have an orange spelling/phonics folder which contains the children's weekly spelling/phonics lists as well as a complimentary activity to be completed and handed in by the day indicated in the individual class guides.

Unhomework

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 six, 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 themselves.

Wrens

In reception unhomework is known as Show and Tell. Children will be given a timetable at the beginning of the half term with some weekly themes to guide their Show and Tell for that week. Some will be simple themes that involve them bringing their favourite book or teddy to school and some will involve using a bit more imagination and creativity. It is important that your child brings their Show and Tell in every Friday to share with the class.

Show and Tell Theme Examples:

- *5 Things About Me,*
- *My Family*
- *My Favourite Animal,*
- *If I was a Superhero I Would be...*

- *When I Grow up....*

Robins:

At the start of each half term children in Robins will be offered a small selection of project-based ideas, from which they choose one to complete. The children have complete freedom and ownership as to how they complete and present their unhomework, having as little or as much adult help as needed. The 'unhomeworks' will then be shared with the class, in an exhibition, within the last two weeks of each half term.

Kingfishers:

Children are expected to select an activity from the challenge cards within the class every two weeks.. It is up to the children how they present their unhomework. unhomework will be shared every Friday so they can choose to complete it within the week or take two weeks. The challenge will be a sticker in their reading record books.

Woodpeckers:

Children will have the choice of several different unhomework titles which they will work their way through during the year. They will have two weeks to complete their unhomework in any way they choose and share with the class at the end of the two weeks. This work is expected to reflect the time frame given. If the tasks are not completed, children will be expected to attend the homework club.

Kestrels:

Children will be given a title based on one of our current areas of learning and will have two weeks to complete a piece of unhomework in any way they wish- on the computer, as a handwritten piece, a poster, model, poem, role play. This will be shared with the class fortnightly on a Friday. This work is expected to reflect the time frame given. If the tasks are not completed, children will be expected to attend the homework club.

Ospreys:

In Ospreys, children have two unhomework deadlines per half-term and it is up to the children what they would like to present. It may be a skill they have been working on, an area of learning they want to get better on or a skill they would like to showcase. It is the children's responsibility to sign up each time and they are expected to present it within the week of the deadline. We have a week beginning deadline rather than a day, so we can spread out the presentations over a week. If the children do not complete their unhomework they will be expected to stay in during lunchtime to complete it.

Owls:

Children are required to complete at least two unhomework tasks every half-term satisfying the criteria and headings set out at the start of the year by the children themselves. Their unhomework will then be shared with the class and they will then self-assess and peer-assess their work within their unhomework booklet. If the tasks are not completed in the time set, they will be carried over into the next half term. All 'unhomeworks' will be shared on a Monday or Friday afternoon.

Recommended time allocation

Unhomework should not be too onerous for anyone within a pupil's family. Children will normally have a week or longer to complete their unhomework, 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: 60 minutes per week

Year 3-4: 90 minutes per week

Year 5-6: 30 minutes per day

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of the unhomework task to parents and pupils, either verbally or through a written explanation of the unhomework set.
- To set up unhomework to follow a regular routine.
- To ensure unhomework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum planned.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete unhomework tasks.
- To provide feedback during unhomework share. Children have the opportunity to share their unhomework with the rest of the class and explain what they have been doing.

Role of Parents/Carers

- Providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- Making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- Signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- Visits to libraries, museums etc.
- Cooking with them
- Taking your child swimming
- Playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games
- Watching informative TV programmes together
- Providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- Gardening and growing plants
- Using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.