



# Discovery Federation

## Homework Policy

Updated: September 2019 by Mrs C. Robson

## Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

## Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in Schools', where homework was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. 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. Indeed 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.

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.

As homework plays such an important part in your child's education we will report on homework half termly as part of your child's attitude and effort tracker. This will feed into the whole school reward system.

## Aims and objectives

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 provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- 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;
- to promote a love of reading;
- to increase awareness of the continuous nature of education.

## Types of homework

Our main homework tasks involve reading. Across the whole school, we encourage the children to read daily and develop a love of reading by giving them books to take home to read with their parents to both progress and consolidate skills and to also read for pleasure. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit and enjoyment from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to practise their sounds and for KS1 & KS2 parents to practise mathematical

tables as part of their homework. Children will bring home their Home Reader daily and will have a 'Page Turner' book changed weekly to encourage reading for pleasure.

To support with learning outside of school, we buy into various online subscriptions including Bug Club, Spelling Shed, Mathletics, Purple Mash, Times Table Rockstars. Staff may allocate tasks and activities on here for children in Reception-Year 6 and these can be accessed from tablets or computers. We also offer access to these during after-school clubs for those children who do not have devices to access these at home. Teachers may also send home lists of age-related spellings or gaps in children's learning so that these can be targeted both at home and in school.

Our homework format has been developed in response to parental feedback where parents preferred homework tasks to be more specifically linked to English and Maths activities covered in school rather than our previous topic approach. In EYFS, children may also complete book reviews to share with their class.

### **Amount of homework**

We expect parents to engage in reading activities with their child at least five times per week, through either reading to their child or listening to their child read to them. Ideally, this would be for around 15 minutes per evening- or longer if you wish!

All children will be given a Reading Record where parents/carers and teachers make any relevant comments.

### **Pupils with special educational needs**

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 register of special needs, we refer to the Education Support Plans and Progress Plans.

### **The role of parents**

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the Curriculum Committee. Parents complete a questionnaire during the school's OFSTED inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent.

Our governing body may, at any time, request from our head teacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.