**Long Whatton CE Primary School**

**Learning and Growing Together**

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**HOMEWORK POLICY**

**Agreed July 2017**

**Next review July 2020**

**HOMEWORK POLICY**

**INTRODUCTION**

Learning at home is ‘an essential part of good education’ (‘Excellence in Schools’ 1997). Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Regular homework is important as it gives children the opportunity to practice at home the tasks covered in class, and helps them improve important skills. It encourages children to become confident and independent learners.

**POLICY AIMS**

* To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
* To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding of homework expectations and the role they play regarding homework.
* To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
* To provide opportunities for parents and children to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences.

**RATIONALE FOR HOMEWORK**

It is a good thing to share learning with your children and it should be a fun and engaging time for parents and children. Homework is an important part of a child’s education and contributes to a child’s development. We recognise that time and available resources at school can sometimes limit educational experiences, therefore, children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and school in encouraging them to learn both at home and in school. We regard homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child’s level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge that homework should not prevent children from participating in a wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important role in their lives. We also believe that play and free time are essential in a child’s growth and development. We use a system called Brain Builders for many homework activities. These varied and challenging tasks are given out every three weeks and children and parents have that time to complete the task in any way they see fit. It may involve a record of a visit to a museum, or something that the child has made, the choice of how to complete the task is up to you. We encourage an imaginative and fun approach to these tasks, but there should be no element of competition between children (or parents).

**AIMS OF HOMEWORK**

Regular well-planned homework aims:

* To enable children to maximise progress in academic and social development.
* To help children develop the skills of an independent learner, including self confidence and self discipline.
* To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting learning.
* To provide educational experiences that may not be possible in school.
* To consolidate and reinforce school learning and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons.
* To help parents gain an insight into their child’s schoolwork.
* To enable children to develop appropriate working habits for the future.

**TYPES OF HOMEWORK**

At Long Whatton CE Primary School we set a wide range of age appropriate homework activities. The following list provides examples:

* Reading with a parent/adult/sibling or independently
* Reading games/comprehension activities
* Learning relevant spellings
* Handwriting
* Preparation for presentations
* Specific speaking and listening activities
* Visiting the local library or museum
* Researching topics using the internet or books
* Learning number facts and playing number games
* Practical maths activities, e.g. measuring, capacity.
* Learning multiplication tables
* Learning to tell the time
* Experience handling money
* Taking a toy character (bear) and create a diary of its experiences
* Topic related activities (e.g. making fact files)
* Creative activities (e.g. making posters, painting, 3D model making)
* Keeping a diary over a period of time (e.g. weather diary, food diary)
* Recommending places to visit
* Open-ended project tasks

Many of these skills will be developed through Brain Builder Activities.

**AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK**

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. The following time allocations are in line with DfES guidelines (‘Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools’, 1998).

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| Foundation Stage | Up to 1.0 hour per week (approx. 10 minutes a day) |
| Year 1 | Up to 1.0 hour per week |
| Year 2 | Up to 1.0 hour per week (approx. 10-15 minutes a day) |
| Year 3 | Up to 1.5 hours per week (approx. 15 minutes a day) |
| Year 4 | Up to 1.5 hours per week |
| Year 5 | Up to 2.5 hours per week (approx. 20-30 minutes a day) |
| Year 6 | Up to 2.5 hours per week (approx. 20-30 minutes a day) |

Children who take part in specialised support lessons may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the learning. Children should complete this alongside their normal homework unless the parents have been told otherwise.

The day on which homework is set is determined by each class teacher.

**CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

We set homework for all children. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has Special Educational Needs, we endeavour to adapt the activity so that all children can successfully achieve the desired outcomes.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Teaching and non-teaching staff at Long Whatton CE Primary School are responsible for ensuring that all children, irrespective of gender, ability, ethnic origin and social circumstances, have access to the whole curriculum and make maximum progress. All children have equal access to homework, and the provision of equal opportunities regarding homework is the responsibility of the class teacher.

**THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL**

* To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
* To ensure this policy is consistently followed.
* To provide support for parents with information about homework.

**THE ROLE OF THE TEACHERS**

* To regularly provide a range of homework tasks to consolidate and extend learning in class.
* To ensure that homework is appropriate to the needs of the child.
* To ensure the children have a clear understanding of the homework task.
* To emphasise the expectation of undertaking homework, depending on age and ability.
* To communicate with parents, informing them of examples of homework tasks through the termly newsletter.
* To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
* To give feedback to the child about homework (marking, oral discussion, rewards, etc).

**THE ROLE OF PARENTS**

* To encourage and support and work alongside the child in completing the homework.
* To support our school in explaining to children that homework is valid and aids learning.
* To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
* To provide somewhere peaceful for the child to work without the distractions of television, other family members.
* To provide a suitable place, equipped with clear table space and good light.
* To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

With reference to the above, it would be beneficial for parents to keep a selection of basic resources at home, e.g. ruler, pencils, pencil crayons, dictionary, calculator, protractor, dice, paper, scissors, glue stick. We are happy to support parents in providing these things if necessary.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should contact the class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Head Teacher.

**THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN**

* To make sure they understand the homework tasks set.
* To tackle homework tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
* To take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high standard expected.
* To be organised so that the necessary equipment is not left at school.
* To take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.
* To take on board any feedback about homework.
* To not get upset if they don’t understand something but to tell their parents and teacher.

**REVIEW**

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree and monitor the Homework Policy. This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Agreed: July 2017

Review Date: July 2020