

# WESTOVER GREEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## Homework Policy

### Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practise at home the tasks done in class, and helps them work towards improving important skills. It also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and, later, in adult life.

Homework activities are an important part of the home / school partnership.

All children are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class.

The homework policy is designed:

1. To ensure consistency of approach throughout school.
2. To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
3. To ensure parents / carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils.
4. To extend and support learning.
5. To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences.

### Our Responsibility

A range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class will be provided, in line with recommended timings by Government.

It is recommended that children should be spending about one hour a week on homework at Reception and KS1 and that demands should gradually increase so that by Years 5 and 6 children are spending about 30 minutes a day on homework.

These times include 10 minutes reading and spelling practice each day.

Individual children may be asked to complete unfinished work at home, and children who are absent from school for more than one or two days may be given extra work to help them keep up.

Staff will ensure that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and that there is a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability.

Consideration will be given to the varying abilities of children with Special Needs. Where normal homework activities are considered inappropriate, other activities will be offered in consultation with parents/carers.

Staff will communicate with parents/carers and keep them informed of their children's progress, projects and topics to be studied, and their children's individual targets via parents evenings, newsletters from class, informal chats etc.

### Parents / Carers Responsibility

Parents / carers can help to support their children by:

- providing somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets,
- providing a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space and good light,
- providing encouragement and support to children when they require it,
- supporting the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning,
- encouraging pupils and praising them when homework is completed,
- being actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular,
- signing and dating their child's homework when they are satisfied that it is of an acceptable standard.
- Signing their child's reading record.

The most valuable homework a parent / carer can carry out with their child is to hear them read regularly and to share books with them in a positive and constructive way. Helping a child to read and to develop a love of books is one of the most important and influential factors in a child's educational development.

There are many ways of supporting set homework tasks and also other ways in which a parent / carer can assist their child with learning at home as follows:

- Sharing books – visiting libraries – providing them with varied and interesting reading material i.e. magazines
- Encouraging them to watch educational TV programmes, especially when connected with a topic being undertaken in school.
- Taking them on visits of educational interest during a family holiday.
- Allowing them to help with shopping and calculate overall costs.
- Giving them access to a computer if you have one, and supervising / controlling what they are doing on the computer.
- Encouraging them to take up an outside hobby / interest.
- Taking them to music shows and interesting films.

### Pupil's Responsibility

Pupils are expected to:

- make full use of all the opportunities they are presented with,

- tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude,
- take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected,
- be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school,
- take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

In order to allow for the child's other activities at least two nights will always be provided to complete homework (unless advised otherwise by the class teacher).

If homework is not completed, children will be expected to complete homework during breaktimes at school.

#### Feedback for pupils, parents / carers and teachers

It is important that feedback is given to pupils as quickly as possible. This is given in a number of ways:

- immediately by parents / carers,
- discussion in class where homework is a part of the class work,
- through tests such as tables or spellings,
- individual comments from the teacher on written work,
- pupils reviewing the work done in small groups,
- presentation of homework in class.

We welcome comments from parents / carers on whether they felt the homework activity was too short / long, too hard / easy, interesting etc. As with all school activities, parents / carers are invited to discuss any queries with their child's class teacher.

Policy Reviewed by:	Heather Good
Signed:	Chair of Governors
Dated:	January 2012