

Achieving the Best, Together

KS1 & 2 HOMEWORK POLICY 2018/19

Ash Green Primary Academy believes that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. We believe it encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom as well as promoting independent learning thus encouraging the child to take great responsibility for their personal progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.

This policy is based on Government guidelines which emphasise the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn. The guidelines include how much time children might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough whilst others feel there is too much! The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which we believe to be reasonable and manageable as well as in line with the guidance provided.

Aims

Homework is encouraged throughout the school. To be most effective, parents, carers, staff and the children need to understand its purpose.

- It reinforces skills which have been taught in school and gives children the opportunity to practise what they have learnt
- It encourages self-discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning
- It promotes independent learning
- It provides teachers with the opportunity to support and extend individual children
- It sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school and future employment
- It encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers
- It encourages parents and carers to become involved with their child's learning

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school. We appreciate that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time'.

Reading

We would hope that children read daily and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times and is not just confined to the total time spent completing homework. This would include fostering early reading skills, where appropriate. We want to promote a love of reading in every child. We encourage parents and carers to discuss their children's books and ask questions about them to ensure that there is understanding of their book as well as accurate reading. We request that there are at least 4 entries, signed, in reading diaries on a weekly basis. Children are able to read their school reading book as well as materials from homes (websites, magazines, comics etc).

Spellings

Spelling rules will be taught to children on a weekly basis. We will then allow children to take these spellings home in order to further practise applying their knowledge of specific rules.

Maths

Children will be allocated weekly, interactive tasks via Abacus (all children have a login to access this). Interactive materials will be used as either a pre learning tool or as an opportunity to consolidate. As maths is 'all around us', we also encourage children take note of real life maths opportunities. For example: following a recipe, shopping with a budget, planning a TV timetable etc.

Weekly expectations

Children are expected to:

- Read 4 times, recorded in diary
- Consolidate spellings
- Access Abacus

Brain Builders

At the beginning or end of each term, children will be given a homework project. This project will be based on the Learning Challenge Curriculum for that term. These projects often develop children's research skills as well as promoting learning experiences between child and adult/s. Children will have a choice in terms of how much of the project they would like to complete (e.g. there may be 8 options to complete; children may complete 1 option or all 8 options). Children will be given a significant amount of time to complete activities.

Statutory Assessment Preparation

To further support children in confidently working through Statutory Assessments Tests (SATs), on occasions, we may send such materials home.

Year 1 – Phonics Screening materials

Year 2 & 6 – Reading, SPAG and Mathematics materials

Responsibilities

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned on time. Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for children to complete. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the children's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher. Class teachers will co-operate closely in their Key Stages to ensure that similar content and expectations between classes is in place.

The Senior Leadership Team will:

- Promote the school homework policy to staff, parents and children
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy

The teacher will:

- Set homework which reflects this policy
- Provide adequate and appropriate feedback to pupils through praise and encouragement, marking or testing (as appropriate)
- Set high expectation of pupils in completing homework

Parents and Carers should support their children by:

- Providing a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, somewhere reasonably peaceful, with supervision if appropriate
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school in ensuring progress
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard
- Being actively involved in joint homework activities with the children
- Contact the class teacher if you have any questions of a general nature regarding homework. If parents wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parent should contact the Governing Body

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete homework
- Ask for help as appropriate
- Gain increased motivation and enjoyment through home learning

Home learning will benefit children, parents and teachers by providing support and information to build confidence and make progress.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the homework policy is efficiently and effectively in place. This will be monitored by the Senior Leadership team in order to ensure homework is contributing to overall children's learning.

Inclusion

All children will have access to homework or that is relevant to their own learning.

Equal opportunities

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or background.

Leaders:

Signed:

Chair of Governor:

Signed:

Ratified by Governors Date:

Date of Review: July 2018