

Oxhey First School

Homework Policy



1 Introduction

1.1 Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which 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.

2 Rationale for homework

2.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. 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 through an exciting, broad and purposeful curriculum. We believe that homework is one of the many ways in which children can acquire the skills related to becoming an independent learner.

2.2 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 and family activities 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. We also recognise that the demands now placed on valuable family time require a flexible approach to the provision of homework.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 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 flexible opportunities for parents to spend productive one to one time with their child;
- 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.

4 Types of homework

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4.1 All children will be provided with a year group learning menu on a half termly basis.

This is divided into 2 sections:

4.1 Set Menu:

This is a non- negotiable menu because we believe the skills being practised below are fundamental to many other important areas of learning too. We expect our set menu to be completed at least 3 times per week because in order to develop a deeper knowledge and understanding, children need short but regular opportunities to practise for those things to become embedded in their long term memory.

Set Menu Items:

1. Spellings linked to the end of year common exception word list and spelling patterns being taught in school (Y1-4)
2. Daily reading- just a couple of pages followed by a discussion about what has been read.
3. Daily Timetables – chanting in the car, walking home, quick and fun! (Y2-4 only)

4.2 Added Extras:

Alongside our set menu, all children will be provided with added extras via a year group learning menu. This is set and put on our school website on the children tab- homework section before each half term holiday and homework books are expected in on the last Monday of every half term

This will offer both choice and flexibility in terms of when and what is completed by our pupils. In doing so we believe pupils will be fully engaged in purposeful out of school learning opportunities which promote enjoyment and progress.

In order to better meet the learning interests and learning styles of our pupils our added extras will be provided in the following areas:

Read it, research it, design it, practise it, write it, make it!

We expect pupils to complete as many of the activities from the year group menu as they like at home, but NO LESS than 3 over the half term. This can be recorded (if appropriate) in our homework books and done all at once or over the whole half term,

If you have any questions or would like to email homework into school, you can do so by using the following email address: **homework@oxhey.staffs.sch.uk**

We will ask for homework books in during the last week of each half term in order for us to share and celebrate this learning. A new menu will be available at the start of each holiday.

5 Pupils with special educational needs

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5.1 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 educational 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 Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) and provide bespoke home learning packs during our PLP meetings with parents to fulfil the aims of this policy.

6 The role of parents

6.1 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.

6.2 We ask parents to check/sign the home/school links book regularly to confirm the completion of set menu tasks such as reading and spellings

6.3 If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. This can be done in person, by phone or by emailing:

homework@oxhey.staffs.sch.uk

If homework cannot be completed due to the lack of resources the school, if informed, will support children and their families with this.

If set menu items are not being completed the class teacher will contact parents to identify any barriers and support as appropriate. If this is unsuccessful in ensuring pupils complete their homework, parents will be contacted by the Head to identify a resolution.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1 It is the responsibility of our Local Advisory Board to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Members of the Senior Leadership Team also monitor the use of our learning menus and homework provision. Parents complete a questionnaire on an annual basis which covers homework provision. Analysis of comments is made and actions are taken to deal with concerns or requests.

Signed:

Date: