



Aldersbrook Primary School Homework Policy

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Mann
Reviewed and Updated: September 2014

INTRODUCTION

This is the school's policy for the provision of homework for pupils at Aldersbrook Primary School.

At Aldersbrook Primary School we recognise the vital role parents play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the value of home-school partnership, of which our homework policy is an important element.

HOMEWORK : A DEFINITION

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to undertake outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. At Aldersbrook Primary School we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

The school regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- foster an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in developing children's learning
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly; reading, English, mathematics and topic work.
- encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

At Aldersbrook Primary School, the teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon.

We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, e.g. swimming, ballet, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc.

Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability.

We hope parents/carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

CURRENT PRACTICE

At the beginning of every term, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework for the term.

At every curriculum event for parents, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework for the term. An outline of the homework tasks is uploaded each week to the school website.

All pupils have homework books in which they complete homework.

THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK

The nature of homework will change as children get older.

Key Stage 1

For children in Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in children's learning is a key objective. Short activities of different kinds like reading together, learning spellings and number facts - provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

Key Stage 2

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning, which they will need to continue lifelong learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own. By the time children reach Year 6 their homework programme will cover a wider range of tasks and curriculum content. This approach will benefit their learning and also ensure that, in relation to homework as much as to other aspects, their transition to Year 7/Secondary school is as smooth as possible.

Homework will be differentiated to take account of individual pupils needs and will include:

Reading	
The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we encourage that children will read for pleasure in their own time.	
Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Pupils will be provided with a suitable school reading book, which can be taken home to read with a parent or other adult person. A reading record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to or read to their child.	Pupils will be expected to take responsibility for their own reading books as necessary. Parents will be asked to sign reading records as well as homework sheets to indicate that it has been completed. As children develop their reading ability they should start to read 'free readers' which they choose from the library each week. Children who need further support with reading will bring an additional 'book banded' book to

	ensure the text level is appropriate to support their learning.
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Spelling
<p>Method</p> <p>Spellings will be given to each child to learn using the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check method. Spellings will cover common words, word patterns and key words related to the current topic or maths theme. In addition pupils will have an opportunity to revise words they have made errors with in previous writing so that the words are personalised to each pupil. Spellings will be differentiated by ability groups.</p>

Mathematics	
Maths will be provided for pupils to consolidate or revise particular mathematical skills taught during the week	
Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Pupils will be given practical maths activities that may involve borrowing resources from school or using practical materials at home. Pupils will also learn helpful rhymes, number bonds and times tables	Pupils will consolidate learning taught during the week. They may also be directed to ICT based maths programmes

Topic
Pupils will be given the opportunity to research topics they are studying in class as they move through the school.
This research could be sourced from the local library, the internet or from family members. Pupils will be given the opportunities to present their homework in a variety of ways including models, power point, a presentation to the class etc.

Talk Topic
Every week all children from Year 1-6 complete a 'Big Write' extended piece of writing. To get the children thinking and gathering ideas before they do this in school, we ask that parents and families discuss the topic with the children so that they can write or draw ideas to get their brain thinking and to help them structure their thoughts onto paper when they complete the writing in school. The ideas could be written in sentences, single words or phrases or drawn! We aim for the children to gather ideas from many different people and sources to make their writing as interesting and detailed as possible. We see a massive difference in the writing quality for the children who have taken time to discuss their writing topic rather than trying to start from scratch.

All teachers will use the following Homework Pro forma;

YEAR 4 HOMEWORK WEEK ENDING:			
Dear Parents, Please ensure that your child completes their homework. Extra reading will really support their learning. Please sign each day when you have seen the completed work. Thank you			
Weekend (Suggested)	Monday (Suggested)	Tuesday (Suggested)	Wednesday (Suggested)
<p>Topic: The Blitz</p> <p>Your task is to find out 5 facts about WWII and The Blitz. You could do this by: Researching on the internet Asking someone at home. Reading it from a book from the library.</p> <p>How could you present your information in an interesting way?</p> 	<p>Spelling:</p> <p>Write your spelling words for this week below:</p> <p>Blitz Churchill Ration Invade Officer Victory Refugee Trench Allies</p> <p>Look, cover, write. Choose one activity from your spelling activity list. Are you ready for the test on Friday?</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <p>Read for 20 minutes. You could read your library book, a book from home, or a newspaper.</p> <p>When you have finished reading you need to choose one activity from your reading activity list. Remember to tick it off!</p> 	<p>Maths:</p> <p>Practise your: 10 x tables 5 x tables 4 x tables</p> <p>Ask someone at home to test you. Can you remember them, even when they are out of order?</p> <p>Extension: Use your kitchen scales to find something at home that weighs: 50g _____ 100g _____ 200g _____</p>
Signed:	Signed:	Signed:	Signed:

THE TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK

There is no Government recommendation regarding the amount of time to be spent completing homework. Therefore Aldersbrook Primary School has set out approximate weekly timings for each year group.

Year Group	Approximate Weekly Timings
Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes per day

Homework tasks for children should;

- have a very clear focus and time-guideline;
- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed;
- help develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- be varied - and not purely written assignments;
- be manageable for teachers.

Aldersbrook Primary School believes that a regular pattern is important, particularly for English and Mathematics. It will endeavour to establish a familiar routine of when tables and spellings are set and when they are tested. This information will be made clear to parents' evening and Curriculum Events.

Homework across the school is sent out on a Friday and is to be returned by Wednesday.

DIFFERENTIATION

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children of differing abilities needs careful consideration by the class teacher with support from the Inclusion Co-ordinator and Gifted and talented Co-ordinator. Some children may benefit from specific tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class. However, wherever possible, it is important that children should do as much in common with their peers as possible.

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CARERS IN SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

Role of the school

- To monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy each year
- To support parents with the newer methods of teaching in English and mathematics by offering parent meetings to put into context the development of English and Mathematics skills from Reception through to Year Six.

Role of the class teacher

- To plan homework as an integral part of curriculum planning
- To inform pupils and parents of homework timetables through discussion in class, at parents' evening and through termly Curriculum Events
- To match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children
- To provide feedback which encourages pupils to regularly complete tasks
- Feedback should be appropriate to the task e.g.
 - individual comment from the teacher, verbal or written
 - marking of the task within an acceptable timeframe
 - teacher supporting pupil self-marking
 - reading diary entry written by pupils or parents
 - recognising homework achievement through assemblies and Aldersbrook Primary School behaviour policy

Role of the parents/carers

Aldersbrook Primary School recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For

much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities.

We firmly believe that homework should be tasks which bring families together rather than cause battles! For this reason we try to include as many discussion based and practical 'hands on' activities as possible.

To avoid 'battles' over homework we recommend that:-

- Children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace;
- Acknowledgement should be given to their own interests;
- The task is undertaken at an appropriate time when the child is best able to concentrate;
- Children given lots of encouragement, praise and help for certain tasks;
- Work at home is perceived as a shared activity;
- Work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes;
- Homework should not be used as a threat or punishment.

HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT and PRAISE from parents/carers is the key to success.

We ask parents to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework - alone, or more often for younger children, together with an adult. We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult. The school encourages parents to give support and help but do not do the work for the children. The school encourages children to complete tasks and return work in a tidy presentable state.

Concerns

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If you have any concerns about the levels of homework or the content etc., please speak to your child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about homework; if there is a problem come in and speak to the teacher about it.

FEEDBACK

Aldersbrook Primary School recognises the importance of providing prompt and accurate feedback to pupils, parents and carers on how well homework tasks have been tackled and the knowledge, skills and understanding that are being developed. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback ranging from an appropriate comment of praise, appreciation or area for improvement to a mark, and these will vary according to the age of the pupil.

INFORMING AND CONSULTING PARENTS AND CARERS ABOUT THE HOMEWORK POLICY

The Homework Policy and useful information for parents in supporting their child's learning is displayed on the School Website. Parents' evenings will be used to promote this partnership and obtain feedback e.g English and Mathematics workshops, New Intake Events.

Questionnaires are used to ascertain parent views on school matters including homework. Parents will be consulted about any significant changes to the policy that are being considered by the Governing Body.

REVIEWING THE POLICY - September 2016

The homework policy will be reviewed every two years.