



Waverley School

Homework Policy

Homework - a definition

A report by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) has defined "Homework as that work which is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum; which contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised or controlled by a teacher; and which represents an extension of the learning activities provided and organised in accordance with the objectives of the school curriculum."

Homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without the help of adults. It is the involvement of parents/carers in joint activities which is most valuable.

The Purpose of Homework

The key objectives of homework are:

1. to encourage pupils to develop the practice of independent study;
2. to develop perseverance and self discipline;
3. to allow practice, where it is needed, of skills learned in the classroom;
4. to permit more ground to be covered and more rapid progress to be made;
5. to open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom;
6. to involve parents (and other adults) in pupils' work.

The purposes of homework will change as children get older. For children in the early stages of their school career the emphasis is on developing a partnership with parents (and/or carers) and involving them actively in the children's learning. As children get older homework provides an opportunity for them to develop skills of independent learning and increasingly becomes the main purpose.



Range of Homework Activities

Many different activities may be set as homework. These will depend upon the age and ability of the pupils. Activities can include:

- reading
- maths games
- learning multiplication tables and/or spellings
- finding out information
- preparing oral presentations
- writing up a science experiment
- completion of a work sheet associated with classroom study
- comprehension exercises

Homework will not regularly involve finishing off written work begun in class. This is not an exhaustive or exclusive list of the activities which may be set as homework.

Special Educational Needs

Setting appropriate homework for children with special educational needs, which does not demand too much or too little of children and their parents, needs close co-ordination between class teachers, the special needs co-ordinator and parents. Tasks should:

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

Homework should not be seen as a way of attempting to get pupils to catch up with the rest of the class.

Time Allocation

Homework will normally be set according to the following programme:

Reception:	Monday – Friday	10 minutes a night
Year 1:	Monday – Friday	15 minutes a night
Year 2:	Monday – Friday	20 minutes a night
Year 3:	Monday – Friday	30 minutes a night
Year 4:	Monday – Friday	30 minutes a night
Year 5:	Monday – Friday	45 minutes a night
Year 6:	Monday – Friday	60 minutes a night



Holiday homework will be set as appropriate to the age and needs of the children

The times specified should be regarded as the maximum time to be spent on homework, especially for older children. If homework regularly takes children much longer than the allotted time parents are encouraged to discuss this with the class teacher.

The role of parents and carers in supporting pupils

In general terms parents and carers should:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework - alone or, more often for younger children, together with an adult;
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Review

Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the homework policy will be carried out by the Deputy Head.

Policy Date: 1st January 2010

Review Date: 1st January 2012