



## **Treales CE Primary School**

### **Homework Policy**

Last Updated	<b>Oct 22</b>
Updated by	<b>L Hill</b>
Approved by Governing Board	<b>Nov 22</b>
Date to Review	<b>Sept 23</b>

## **Homework Policy**

Developed in consultation with parents, children, staff and governors

### **Purpose of Policy**

This policy aims to define a consistent approach to homework that is both age appropriate and builds on the learning the children are involved with in school. Through this policy, we aim to ensure consistency of approach throughout school by outlining the purpose, types and amount of homework set. We recognise the facts that the purpose of homework may change as pupils get older and that the needs of the individual pupil should be taken into account. As a staff, we give careful consideration to making homework suitable and well balanced across the school.

We believe homework works best when:

- Children and parents/carers are very clear about what they need to do
- Parents and carers are treated as partners in their child's learning
- Tasks are carefully planned in year groups
- It builds on and helps consolidate work in class
- There is a regular programme so that everyone knows what is expected each week
- Homework is achievable by all pupils and adaptations are made where necessary
- There is consistency across the school

For our policy to be implemented successfully, parental support is crucial and it is our intention to involve parents and carers in the implementation of monitoring this policy.

### **Definition of Homework**

Homework is learning that will help with, reinforce and extend schoolwork. It can therefore be defined as work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside of lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers. Homework should consolidate knowledge taught in class and aims to revisit concepts previously taught through emphasis on retrieval skills to strengthen knowledge learned previously. Pupils are encouraged to practice recalling knowledge/learning away from the school setting.

### **The Purpose of Homework**

We set homework because :

- It offers opportunities for retrieval practice, helping to secure knowledge into long-term memory
- It helps the school develop an effective partnership between parents/carers and school
- It encourages the development of confidence, self-discipline and the organisational skill pupils need to study on their own, and prepares them for the requirements of transition points including secondary school

### **Type of Homework**

Homework should provide opportunities for retrieval practice and practicing knowledge and skills taught in the classroom.

### **Staple weekly tasks expected of all our children include :**

- An expectation to read little and often – although progressively more as the child moves through school
- Practice of maths facts for fluency and recall (number bonds, times tables, etc)
- A consolidation maths activity set to reflect current learning within the classroom
- Spellings or phonics based learning

### **Examples of weekly homework tasks might include:**

- A quiz of about 5 questions to promote retrieval of knowledge, with a more challenging optional question

- A list of spellings to be practice; spelling pattern or phonics based and may also include high frequency words or topic words
- A task that links to an individual subject being taught
- An activity for practicing knowledge and understanding of punctuation and grammar or comprehension

Regular reading to and with parents/carers is vital. Our recommendation is that all children at our school should either read to their parents/carers or be read to frequently – ideally, daily. At Key Stage 2, personal reading should increase in duration to increase stamina and for children to access increasingly complex texts. As a minimum, we expect children to read to an adult or themselves for 15-20 minutes, three times a week.

If pupils from a year group are on a residential, or are preparing for a performance, other forms of homework may be set during that week. When this happens, it is still expected that reading, times tables and spellings are maintained on a weekly basis.

### **Monitoring Homework**

Class teachers and Teaching Assistants will ensure that homework is carefully planned as part of medium and short term planning. They will ensure the weekly homework is tracked and monitored. Class teachers are responsible for collecting homework for their own class. Homework is given to children in a homework folder, but a copy of this will be posted on the website and sent on School Spider. Teachers will check for written comments from parents and respond where appropriate. Based on common errors, teachers will respond with verbal feedback to the class, addressing these errors; this will be recorded on the following week's cover sheet so that parents know what has been taught in class. Teaching Assistants will support those children who make unexpected errors. Where pupils regularly complete homework to a good standard, then teachers will use the school reward system and issue House Points in recognition of their efforts. Teachers will give reminders and discuss lack of homework with parents of children who repeatedly fail to submit work.

### **Homework of a high standard**

We recognise that some pupils consistently hand in homework of a high standard. Staff will note in class records those pupils who hand in high-quality personal work. Children will be awarded in Celebration Worship on Fridays.

### **Homework club**

Children have the option to attend Homework Club on Tuesdays from 3.30pm-4pm with Mrs Hill. The club is voluntary and can be used by any child wanting to finish off particular tasks or who have difficulty accessing the internet or a suitable device. Children who do not hand in their homework will be encouraged to attend Homework Club, however, it remains the choice of the child and parent whether they attend.

If a child does not hand in homework, nor attends the homework club, they will complete homework at lunchtime on Thursdays.

### **Special Needs**

It is important that children with a special need do as much in common with other children in the class. However, there may be some occasions when it is more appropriate for students to do work which addresses their individual needs. Wherever possible, these should be linked to IEPs or EHCPs and should give plenty of opportunity for pupils to succeed.

### **Timetable of Homework**

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set and the way that they are planned.

Broad guidelines, however, on the amount of time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework (excluding reading) are as follows:

Reception	approximately 30 minutes across the week
Years 1&2	approximately 1 hour across the week
Years 3-4	approximately 1 ½ hours across the week
Years 5-6	approximately 2 hours across the week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Homework set</b>		Homework club		Homework	All year groups
<b>Hand in homework</b>		3.30pm-4.15pm	All year groups	catch up at lunchtime	

### Wrap Around Care

There is the opportunity to complete homework and reading in Breakfast and After School Club if your child attends these sessions. Staff will write in the children's reading record if homework has been completed.

### The Role of Parent / Carers

The support of parents and carers is vital for this policy to be successfully implemented. In general, it is our hope that parents will:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework alone or with the help of an adult
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Ensure homework is completed on time and if a task appears to be taking too long then stop sending a message to the class teacher to inform them
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework
- Become actively involved in joint homework activities
- Go through homework with their child, encouraging the child to discuss their work, ticking correct answers, and dotting / crossing the incorrect ones. Note down areas the child struggled to grasp. Your child's class teacher will review the homework and write a comment about their achievement if needed.
- Parents are responsible for helping the children manage their homework and marking their homework together. It is also important they provide feedback to their children, and where necessary, to the class teacher through written means. Parents should respect the professional judgement of the teacher.
- Parents will communicate with staff if there are issues with the child and homework.