



Home Learning Policy

Updated Oct 21



The school's home-school agreement makes clear our aim "to provide suitable home learning which enables your family to support your learning".

This policy has been devised to provide clear information for parents and staff regarding our approach to homework, the pattern of homework provided by different year groups, and the importance that we give to home learning. We hope that this information will help parents to take an active role in their child's home learning.

Through this policy, we aim to

- ❖ Ensure parents have a clear understanding about the expectations for pupils;
- ❖ Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ❖ Ensure the needs of individual pupils are taken in to account;
- ❖ Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self discipline needed to study independently;
- ❖ Encourage children to develop long-term strategies for future needs;
- ❖ Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- ❖ Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- ❖ At Y6, to prepare children for secondary transfer.



At Whiteley Primary School, we recognise the important role parents have in their child's academic development. In school, children have opportunities to develop new knowledge and skills but it is only when they practise and apply these to a variety of different situations that deeper learning occurs. Homework activities provide valuable opportunities for this and so we understand that by providing guidance for parents and a structure for homework tasks, we can develop an effective partnership between parents, pupils and the school.

Parents can help us in the implementation of this policy by

- ❖ Familiarising themselves with the policy so that they can best support their child at home;
- ❖ Praising and encouraging their child to do their best;
- ❖ Taking part in any school curriculum workshops that support home learning;
- ❖ Contacting the class teacher if any aspect of homework is causing difficulties.

Why Homework?

Homework is an issue that evokes very different reactions from parents. Some want more, some want less, some want practice activities whilst others want creative projects. Recent research evidence suggests that homework at primary school can have little or no impact on learning and that in some cases it can damage self-esteem and turn children off learning.

Here at Whiteley, we try to incorporate a range of themes and activities, as we believe that homework *can* have a very positive impact on learning. We have reviewed the research, taken in to consideration the views of parents and evaluated our home learning opportunities to develop this policy. Key changes made in light of our findings included dropping long project and research tasks and having a clearer focus on basic skills and consolidation of classwork as part of home learning. If you would like more information, please speak to a member of the leadership team.

On-going Home Learning Tasks – Reading

Regular reading is vital across the primary school. At Whiteley Primary School, we would encourage all children to be engaged in regular (preferably daily) reading activities at home. This may include children reading aloud with an adult; reading silently (fluent readers); carrying out 'Bug Club' reading activities; reading signs/posters in the environment; phonic activities; answering questions about their reading; or listening to others read. It is important that activities should be enjoyable for the child (and the parent) so that children develop a positive attitude towards reading. Additional home reading guidance is available from the school.

Reading Challenges and Reading Ambassadors

Regular reading is supported in several ways throughout our school - in particular by our Reading Challenges and Reading Ambassador programs. They are both designed to encourage children to read regularly at home and include a variety of badges as rewards at different stages. More information is available from your child's class teacher.

On-going Home Learning Tasks – Mental Maths and Times Tables

Regular activities and games to support children developing their mental maths skills are also encouraged. The curriculum has an increased focus on children's understanding of numbers and the expectation is that they will have developed quick recall of a variety of mental facts, including all times tables and related division facts up to 12x, by the end of year 4. Parents can support this by demonstrating how maths is used on a daily basis and encouraging children to apply their understanding to real life contexts such as shopping. Other opportunities include: counting songs/games/activities; using money/calculating change; recipes; board games using 2 dice; and telling the time (digital and analogue clocks) etc. Additional guidance is available from the school.

KS2 Times Tables Rockstars Challenge

To support fluency with times tables, we subscribe to [Times Tables Rockstars](#) in KS2. This online programme offers personalised quizzes and games for each child to develop instant recall of their times tables, improve their rock speed and to climb the rockstar ranks, to the ultimate goal of achieving the status "Rock Hero".

Spelling in KS2

Children will be given spellings from the National Curriculum word lists to practise and learn throughout the year. These words will be a focus in class along with spelling rules and patterns from the No Nonsense spelling programme.

Children Receiving Extra Support

If your child is part of a 1:1 programme, the homework set during these sessions takes precedence over classroom tasks. Also, if your child is on SEN support and is given extra work to do at home, the class teacher will provide guidance as to how to prioritise home learning tasks.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 (Year R, 1 & 2)

In YR – Y2, parents are asked to access the year group blog for children's home learning tasks. A new page will be published every Friday with weekly guidance on home-learning and ideas of things to do. Activities will include practical tasks or online games so most weeks there will be no need to record anything. If children would like to complete tasks on paper, these can be sent in or emailed to class teachers if parents would like.

Most weeks, home learning will include a reading task (often linked to Bug Club), a phonics/spelling task, a maths task and one extra activity linked to learning in class. It is important to make any home learning as enjoyable as possible, and we leave it to parents' discretion to decide whether to use all the activities provided. We suggest that reading takes the priority, and other activities are used if appropriate for the child.

Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5, & 6)

Children in KS2 are introduced to Google Classroom and homework tasks will be posted on the class page, either to be completed online, or sent home to be completed in a homework book. This will depend on the task as some activities, such as formal written calculations in maths, need to be completed on paper so that the teacher can analyse any misconceptions in methods. Other tasks may be set and completed via Google Classroom. Please look out for tasks labelled as 'homework', as there may be other activities on your child's Google Classroom page which are going to be completed as part of lessons in school.

Year	Homework Tasks	Set	Due
Y3	Up to 3 pieces a week (maths, English, spelling) Ongoing reading and mental maths including times tables	Fri	Tues
Y4	Up to 3 pieces a week (maths, English, spelling) Ongoing reading and mental maths including times tables	Fri	Tues
Y5	Up to 3 pieces a week (maths, English, spelling) Ongoing reading and mental maths including times tables	Fri	Wed
Y6	Up to 3 pieces a week (maths, English, SPAG, guided reading) On-going reading and mental maths including times tables	Fri	Wed

Weekly tasks at KS2 will either be **Share it!** or **Practise it!** tasks.

- **Share it!** - to demonstrate what they have learnt
- **Practise it!** - to consolidate and practise specific skills from the week

The aim is that children should learn to take responsibility for their homework and so tasks should be accessible by them and done independently, where possible. If you have any concerns, please contact their class teacher.

Feedback

At Whiteley Primary, we value the efforts children make with their home learning. Depending on the task, feedback to children about homework may be given in one of the following ways:

- ❖ A written comment, stamp or sticker from the teacher on an individual's work;
- ❖ Automatic marking through Google Classroom, or a comment left online.
- ❖ Verbal discussion with individuals, groups or the class. For example, some tasks will be marked as a class, or the homework used as the basis of a lesson.
- ❖ Self and peer assessment.
- ❖ A note in the pupil logbook for a particularly good piece of homework or work put on display;
- ❖ Use of the school's rewards systems (housepoints, sharing in assembly, Headteacher award).

Homework Club

Older children will also have an opportunity to attend Homework Club. It will run for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 on Tuesdays at lunchtime and the children will sign up on a Monday morning (they do not need to attend every week, just as required.) Homework Club may be used to complete unfinished homework, to get help and support with challenging tasks, or teachers may ask children to use the time to complete tasks not handed in on time.

Late/Forgotten Homework

Unless parents have informed us that they do not wish their child to receive homework, at KS2 there is the expectation that children will carry out the homework tasks outlined on the timetable in this policy. On occasions, children will forget to complete homework, or leave it at home. This is understandable, and in these situations children are given an additional day to produce the work. If work is not completed by this time, we will provide the opportunity for children to complete the task in school during a playtime, or at Homework Club.

If children have a particularly busy week out of school, and are therefore unable to complete homework, it is important for parents to let us know via the pupil logbook (Y5/6) or year group email. In these situations, a child will not be expected to complete the work in school.

Parents who do not wish their child to receive any formal homework during the year should see the class teacher. These wishes will, of course, be respected.