Denby Free CofE VA Primary School

Homework Policy

Headteacher: ____J Clarke_____ Chair: __L Reast_____

Date: 30.09.25 Date: 30.09.25

Approved by all Governors on _____30.09.25_____

Reviewed:

To be reviewed: October 2027

Why do we set homework?

Current research from the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) suggests:

1. Homework has a positive impact (on average +5 months).
2. Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective.
3. It is important to make the purpose of homework clear to pupils.

Aims of the Policy

- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline required for individual study, thus ensuring progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and mathematics.
- To prepare children for the demands of the next steps in their learning and other life-long learning opportunities.
- To ensure that parents/guardians have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and their children.
- To provide opportunities for the parents, pupils, and school to work in partnership, by providing opportunities for parents/guardians and pupils to enjoy learning experiences together.
- To exploit all resources for learning including those found at home.
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.

Content of the Homework

The focus of homework will be English and maths, including reading and spellings. As children move through the school this will continue to be the focus with the addition of other subjects such as science etc. Homework will consist of formal exercises to be completed by the child but will also include activities to be completed jointly by the parent and pupil e.g., research, making, exploring.

In Reception (EYFS), children will be sent home reading activities linked to their phonics sessions (Little Wandle). Regularly practising reading, looking out for the words in reading books and playing reading games will benefit and support the children in their development.

Children will also get the opportunity to take home 'Sid' and one of the Chatter Bags throughout the year. These encourage children to develop their language and communication skills, and in turn, will develop their confidence in using new vocabulary when articulating their thoughts.

Later during the year, Reception children will also be given short maths activities to complete with parents at home. These will sharply focus on ensuring that children have a secure understanding of the number system, place value, shape and measures. Activities may seem overly simple at times, but having secure knowledge and key vocabulary is the foundation of all maths learning that they will encounter throughout the rest of their time in school.

Key Stage 1 focuses on phonics and reading practice. This continues to be essential all the way through the child's primary education.

Maths homework begins with simple number activities. Interactive mathematics games are used for maths homework. Parents can access these through Numbots. A login is created for each child which will be written into reading records.

In addition to regular weekly activities, children may be given additional, optional tasks that are linked to topic work (Science, RE, Geography, History). These may include research work, making a digital photo diary, preparation for Show and Tell or a craft / making project.

Occasionally children may be asked to finish work at home, but this will not form the core part of the homework.

In lower Key Stage 2 children will be expected to read at least three times a week and to complete a minimum of 20 minutes per week on TTRockstars. A login is created for each child which will be written into reading records.

Children in lower Key Stage 2 may also be given homework that consolidates their learning from lesson time in Grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Occasionally children may be asked to finish work at home, but this will not form the core part of the homework.

In upper Key Stage 2, children will receive a weekly English task and Maths task based on their learning during the week. There is still the expectation that children will read at least three times a week at home (with an adult or independently).

Spellings will be set each week. These will be learnt in dedicated lesson time but will also be sent home (via Dojo) for families who want to practice them with their children.

Occasionally children may be asked to finish work at home, but this will not form the core part of the homework.

Teachers will establish a regular pattern for homework that parents will be informed about via class Dojo messages at the beginning of each academic year.

Time Allocations for Homework at Denby Free CofE VA Primary School follow national guidelines. Parents/Guardians should read with their child, a minimum of three times per week using the guidance below.

Reading tips for Parents



Approximate guidance and expectations for homework

Year group	Time allocation	Subjects
Reception	10 mins per evening	Reading, Maths tasks later in the year, Language and communication activities
Year 1	1 hour a week	Reading, maths (Numbots), phonics key words, optional topic homework
Year 2	1 hour a week	Reading, maths (Numbots), phonics key words, optional topic homework
Year 3	1 + ½ hours a week	Reading, weekly maths (TTRockstars) and occasional English work
Year 4	1 + ½ hours a week	Reading, weekly maths (TTRockstars) and occasional English work
Year 5	2 hours a week	Reading, weekly spellings (optional), weekly maths and English work
Year 6	2 + ½ hours a week. (Occasionally more with revision)	Reading, weekly spellings (optional), weekly maths and English work, other pieces of homework for revision (may include exemplar SATs papers/questions)

This requirement follows the recommended national guidelines. The reading, especially in Key Stage 2, may form part of the other homework tasks.

Sanctions

If children do not complete homework and give it in on time, without a note/message being provided by parents/guardians, children may be asked to complete it during the school day. Ideally, we want homework to be completed on time.

Homework during School Holidays

Homework will sometimes be given during the Christmas, Easter, and summer holidays to encourage children to explore new learning and prevent loss learning. Normal weekly homework will be given during half term breaks in Year 3 and above. As reading is a life skill, we hope that all children will be encouraged to read to parents during holiday times, from either a school reading book or other chosen text as appropriate to their age.

Special Educational Needs

The above timetable applies, wherever possible, equally to children with recognised special educational needs. However, the children will receive adaptations according to their needs, which may be different to the rest of the class.

Planning and Co-ordination

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to plan and provide manageable tasks for the children and to liaise with parents where necessary. All parents will be informed at the beginning of each year of the regular homework pattern, and this will be found on each class's Class Dojo page. This will include the day the work will be set and the deadlines for completion.

If there are any problems with homework, please speak to the class teacher and discuss any issues. Children may be given homework when they are ill or absent for any other reason, to ensure they catch up and no child is left behind.

Where there is more than one class with children in the same year group, teachers will liaise to ensure that the homework is jointly planned and delivered for all pupils of similar abilities.

The Role of Parents

Parents are asked to provide a suitable quiet place in which homework can be completed, whether working alone or with an adult. It is essential that parents make it clear to their children that they value homework and are willing to support the school with their approach. This includes encouragement and praise at all levels and independence is encouraged. Homework should be set to consolidate learning that has been taught in the class learning so learning is retained in the long-term memory, making learning stick.

Feedback

All homework is marked promptly with a light touch, and feedback given to pupils verbally or as a whole class.

Parents can give teachers any useful feedback. This may include:

- Notes in the reading record book
- Notes attached to the homework
- Verbal feedback

This homework policy will be reviewed every two years.