



The Acorns Homework Policy

Rationale

At The Acorns Primary and Nursery School, we recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance of school and home life.

We believe:

- that learning at home is important
- purposeful and organised homework can develop an effective partnership with parents and carers
- that quality homework can support learning in the classroom
- that homework helps to develop successful, independent learning skills

What is meant by homework?

Homework is any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers

Aims

- Ensure consistency throughout our school
- Enhance and reinforce work and learning at our school
- Help children to develop independent learning strategies
- Increase the quality and range of learning experiences offered to children
- Work with parents/carers to develop a shared understanding of the value of homework and how they can support their children with tasks set
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and school to enjoy working in partnership on learning experiences
- Prepare children for secondary school

Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full

Homework Objectives

All tasks should:

- Give plenty of opportunities for children to succeed.
- Be enjoyable.
- Be differentiated to match the children's needs.
- Have a clear, shared focus accompanied with time guidelines.
- Help to develop a range of skills.
- Be manageable for teachers, pupils and parents/carers.
- Not deprive the children of their vital playtime and enjoyment of other interests.
- Incorporate online learning where appropriate.

Roles

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring the implementation of this policy is consistent and coherent throughout the school.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the policy.
- Ensuring that the policy is reviewed on an annual basis.
- Communicating the policy to parents/carers, staff, pupils and governors.

The class teacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable and rewarding for pupils

- Ensuring homework is relevant and consolidates or deepens pupils' learning and understanding
- Matching the homework to the needs of all pupils
- Ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for parents/carers on a day-to-day basis
- Providing appropriate feedback to pupils and parents/carers in a timely fashion

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Providing a reasonably suitable place in which their children can do homework
- Supporting with homework, encouraging and praising their children
- Making it clear that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their child's learning
- Actively hearing children read, questioning them and commenting in their reading record to reflect this.
- Communicating in homework books when necessary

The child is responsible for:

- Always doing their best and completing work on time
- Asking for help if they need it

Homework Tasks

Reading:

- Reading is critical. Research demonstrates the wider impact of reading in terms of understanding society, mathematics, and acquisition of vocabulary. Pupils are encouraged to read at home every day. One dojo will be awarded every time there is a note from an adult in the reading diary.

Writing:

- Reception will have high frequency and tricky word cards sent home
- Year 1, 2 & 3 will send home weekly phonics or spellings
- Year 4, 5 & 6 will have weekly spellings

Maths:

- No maths homework for Reception
- Year 1 and 2 will be set number fact homework (such as addition and subtraction questions, with Y2 completing times table work as the year progresses)
- Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be set times tables homework to improve recall of times tables up to 12x12

Wider Curriculum:

Each half term, to promote all areas of the curriculum and to ensure that all children can showcase their talents in every area of the curriculum, one foundation subject will be chosen as of focus for a range of homework activities. Children will be set a list of learning opportunities that they can choose from for that term's specific subject. Within this list, there will be a choice of activity to complete on Seesaw. An afternoon every half term will be allocated to celebrate and share the children's wider curriculum homework and allow an opportunity for peer and teacher feedback. This homework will begin after half term. There will be a clear deadline stated on the homework for the activities chosen to be in school ready to showcase.



Year 6:

- Teachers will set specific homework for Year 6 in the lead up to the end of key stage tests. This will be in the form of SATs revision books. Year 6 children will also have access to additional online learning platforms (SATs Companion) that provide targeted SATs preparation
- Pupils in year 6 may be given work that can be complete on their designated school Chromebook. This may not follow the homework setting and completion dates previously stated

Meeting the needs of individual children

- All homework should be appropriate to the needs of the children. While we may set some work that can be complete using a digital device, we will never expect homework to be completed in this way for all pupils.

Not completing homework

We understand that there may be challenges and barriers to our pupils completing homework in a way that benefits them academically. As is outlined in our rationale, we will support our pupils and families so that homework doesn't ever contribute to feelings of anxiety or any negative feelings towards school. We will also ensure that there is no element of shame for any pupil who does not complete homework. We will, however, continue to have high expectations for our pupils and families.

It is expected that all children will do the homework set. If a child does not do their homework, a reminder text will be sent to parents, prompting them to support their child to complete the homework set. Pupils will then be given opportunities in school to complete any outstanding homework. If this is a regular occurrence, this will be discussed with parents/carers.

At The Acorns Primary and Nursery School, we recognise that not all parents/carers are able to support their children in homework activities. School will support children and families who are finding homework challenging sensitively and with understanding.

Sickness

Children who are sick will not receive homework. In cases of long term sickness, every effort will be made to support children and their families.

Review and Evaluation

The quality of homework tasks set and their relevance in supporting and enhancing learning will be monitored and evaluated termly.

This policy was drawn up in consultation with pupils, parents/carers, staff and governors. Staff will review it in line with our Policy Review Cycle, unless there are significant changes and therefore a need to review it sooner.