

Dudley House School

Homework Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1** Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1** Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to it, and regards it as an essential part of good education.
- 2.2** We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 2.3** Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in family and leisure activities, and participating in various clubs and organisations which play an important part in children's lives. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of our homework policy are:
- to ensure a consistent approach to the use of homework across the school;
 - to inform parents and carers about our approach to homework ;
 - to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
 - to enable pupils to make maximum progress;
 - to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
 - to help children to understand that the world of learning extends beyond the school, and to make links between their experiences in and those gained outside school;
 - to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
 - to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
 - to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

- 4.1** Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

- 4.2** We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we give children sounds, words and books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance to parents on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings, and mathematical facts as part of their homework.
- 4.3** At Key Stage 2 we continue to ask children to read and discuss books regularly with parents, to learn mathematical facts and spellings, but we expect them to do more tasks independently.
- 4.4** All children are also set 'Brain builder' tasks every few weeks. These are carefully planned tasks that are linked to work in class. This is a creative approach to homework which allows children to work in their own preferred style.
- 4.5** Homework is marked according to the school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

5 The role of parents

- 5.1** Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We encourage parents to:
- discuss the homework tasks set;
 - provide them with a good working space at home;
 - help their child as and when they feel it necessary;
 - encourage their child to complete the homework;
 - hand homework in on time.
- 5.2** If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher.
- 5.3** All homework should be completed and handed in on time. Parents should let the class teacher know if a particular piece of homework could not be completed.
- 5.4** Teachers will alert parents if homework is not being completed and handed in.

6 Use of ICT

- 6.1** The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.
- 6.2** There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.
- 6.3** We discourage children from bringing computer disks or USB memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses.

7 Monitoring and review

- 7.1** It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.
- 7.2** This policy will be reviewed in three years, or earlier if necessary.

Signed:

Date: March 2014

Review Date: March 2017