



Faith is all around us.  
 We have to have faith in ourselves in order to be the best that we can be.  
 We are a small school, with big hearts and together we beat as one.  
 Sowing seeds of knowledge and faith, with nurture and love  
 We thrive, we grow.

## Wistow Parochial C of E Primary School

**Headteacher: Carla Cox**

### Homework Policy

Document Status			
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	May 2025	Curriculum	
<b>Success Criteria for review completion</b>	All docs read and amended as necessary.	<b>Responsibility</b>	Curriculum Lead
<b>Date of Policy Creation</b>	<b>February 2014</b>	<b>Name</b>	Andy Kehoe
<b>Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body</b>	<b>May 2024</b>	<b>Signed:</b> <b>(Governor responsible)</b>  <b>Signed:</b> <b>(Headteacher)</b>	
<b>Method of Communication (e.g. Website, Noticeboard, etc.)</b>	<b>Website, Shared drive and General Policy File in Office</b>		

Wistow Parochial C of E Primary School appreciates the importance of links between home and school. By working together, we can provide the best education for our children.

We believe that it is valuable for pupils to take work home as it enables parents to share in what they are doing at school and giving opportunities to offer encouragement. This supports our belief that parents and school are working together in partnership.

As the pupils get older, homework helps to prepare them for life-long learning by encouraging good habits and helping them to take responsibility for their own study. It helps the pupils to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school in addition to extending school work. It gives an opportunity for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences such as research.

Our amount of homework varies according to the age of the pupils, the professional judgement of the teacher and the curriculum areas being studied at any particular time.

Teachers also take into account children's abilities and do differentiate homework when needed, in order to support the individual child and help with their learning and confidence. There will always be an element of challenge, but children will have work that is suitable for them and should be able to complete the majority of tasks independently.

All the homework is in the same format throughout the school and this ensures the build-up of skills and the progression of learning for each child.

We ask that every child reads at least four times a week, daily is the best, with someone listening to them. As they get older, we understand the reluctance to let an adult read with them; however, the value of this is significant as it allows them to be challenged, asked questions that look more into reasons why things happen and also you can discuss unknown language and explore new vocabulary. For younger children, listening to stories and identifying sounds is so important. We ask that when parents have heard a child read, they write a little comment in their planners to celebrate successes or identify any issues they may have had. Reading is the key in moving learning forward and all research shows this. Another important thing is to share a love of books. If you respect books and value them, the children will too. Reading doesn't just have to be books; it can be comics, instructions, recipes, songs, poetry, internet websites and more. Children need to realise the importance of reading and how we use it as part of our everyday lives.

### **Reception, Years 1 and 2**

Pupils have a daily reading session with parents, in which they share books by using the pictures, following text as the adult reads aloud, or reading themselves. Above all we want all pupils to enjoy the story or other content of the book. Parents should complete the daily section in the reading record within the planners to let the teacher know how they are getting on at home.

We expect children to read the books more than once. This helps develop confidence, accuracy and fluency. For a child to be able to read with confidence, is something that supports and develops reading ability.

When bringing home books from the RWI scheme of learning the children are encouraged to also focus on sound and green and red words which can be found within the books.

### **Literacy Focus**

Reception

Reading / Phonics linked to RWI

Year 1	Reading / Phonics linked to RWI/ Spellings
Year 2	Reading / Spellings

### **Numeracy Focus**

All Key Stage 1 - Children bring home pieces of calculation homework, relating to maths that they have been learning in class, to consolidate skills and share their learning with parents.

### **Years 3 and 4**

Pupils **must** take school reading books home and read to an adult each day. Any additional suitable\* reading material is acceptable as long as this activity is recorded in their planners. We strongly advise parents to read with their children on the school reading programme, to ensure spelling patterns are read and particular vocabulary is introduced to them. Parents can help by encouraging them to discuss the parts they like best, the characters, what might happen next, etc. This develops all the more advanced reading skills. All pupils need to be heard on a regular basis in order to improve their reading skills and to build up their self-confidence, whatever their level of reading ability.

\*Suitable reading books can be provided by the class teacher – if you are unsure please ask. School have reading lists for all pupils on our school website, to support parents with additional reading materials.

Parents are informed about topic work and other areas of focus at the beginning of each term via newsletters or the website. Pupils should be encouraged as much as possible, perhaps by helping them, to find out small pieces of information in relation to their topic.

Children are given specific tasks of homework in Maths and English to complete which supports their work in class and they are linked to the National Curriculum for Maths and English. Some tasks have a direct link to the current topic.

Children are given a weekly spelling and calculation homework. The spellings are from the RWI scheme and follow spelling patterns for their age group. The calculation homework, is consolidating work done so far over the year and more questions will be added as the year progresses, to increase challenge and stamina.

Homework is collected by the teacher and recorded as complete/incomplete. It will then be returned to the child who keeps it in a homework folder. Research will then be used within relevant lessons throughout the week or following week.

## **Years 5 and 6**

As the pupils get older, the amount and variety of homework increases. Children are given a weekly spelling and calculation homework, but with more challenge. The spellings are from the RWI scheme and the Year 5/6. The calculation homework, is consolidating work done so far over the year and more questions will be added as the year progresses, to increase challenge and stamina.

Parents are informed about topic work and other areas of focus at the beginning of each term via newsletters or the website.

During the latter part of Y6 there will be additional preparation for SATs tests. Achieve revision books will be available to buy and homework is to work on these in preparation for these tests.

Parents should discuss pupil's homework with them and help them to develop a good routine for completing their work.

At Key Stage 2 homework is recorded in each individual's planner.

## **Homework Completion and Monitoring**

Homework is given every Monday and is to be handed in the following Monday. We keep a record of who hands it in and we ask that you encourage your children to get into a routine and make sure that it is complete and ready for Monday morning. These types of homework have been shown to have impact children's academic progress positively and we ask that parents work with the school to encourage children to complete it to the best of their abilities.

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring that demands are manageable and any sanctions for the non-completion of homework.

## **Additional Optional Homework for Key Stage 2 in the Holidays**

On occasions, children are invited to complete a school project or a topic of their choice at home in order to extend their learning in an area of particular interest to them. The children are encouraged to engage in this work, however it is not compulsory and will be a self-motivated activity for them to complete at home.

There are no specifications for the project with regards presentation, style, content or length. However, children are invited to share their projects with children during Feedback Friday sessions at the end of each term / half term as appropriate.

## **Booster Clubs**

Throughout the Year the school offers various booster clubs for children in KS2. These clubs are aimed to support their development in English, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (EGPS) and Maths. We would recommend that children invited to a booster club such as Maths attend as it is designed to really help them prepare.

## **Homework Clubs**

Children have the opportunity to attend an informal homework club, where they receive support and can go over areas they may need to revisit. Parents are aware of this and know that their children can drop in, at their request. Parents are also asked to annotate and code homework if children are struggling, so that we know in school and that can inform planning and support.

## **Additional Supporting Resources**

As a school, we have some additional resources that children can use to support their learning at home. This includes EdShed – a fantastic online maths programme that all children have login details for. This has teaching activities, games, assessments that are linked to class learning and can be set by teachers and online competitions and games. Children's achievements are celebrated in school as part of our Friday assembly. Our website also hosts some interactive games and links so that children can use these at home to support their learning in school.

## **The Role of Parents and Carers**

Homework gives parents the opportunity to show pupils that they are interested in their work. As such, it is rewarding for both and encouraging for the pupil. It encourages a positive attitude to learning and prepares pupils well for the future, especially for when the children attend High School.

Parents have opportunities to comment and communicate with the teachers by using the appropriate sections in the planner and/ or by e-mailing teachers using their direct school e-mail address.

Parents can best help with homework by:

- providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for doing homework
- ensuring that pupils take pride in their work by using A4 paper /homework books and blue pen or pencil, not biro or felt tip pen
- anticipate that homework will be sent out and support the school in explaining how it helps children to make progress

- expecting deadlines to be met, checking these and pupils for the completion of homework

### **The Role of the Pupil**

As with all their learning, we encourage all pupils to take a pride and responsibility in assessing their own work. Pupils should use the same systems of assessment that they are familiar with within the class to say how much they have understood the task.

- Pupils in Years 3 to 6 will keep a record of the homework needed to be done in their planners.
- It is the pupil's responsibility to share homework with parents, ensuring that the planner is carried between school and home each night.
- It is the pupil's responsibility to return their completed homework to the teacher within the given time period.

### **Absences**

When pupils are absent because they are sick we do not usually send work home. We make the assumption that they are not well enough to work. It may happen, however, that a pupil is absent for a length of time but is well enough to do some work at home. In these circumstances, the teacher and the parent agree what should be done, how it will be worked and what sort of help needs to be given.

If parents have any queries about homework they should put a comment in the planner or send a private message by email to the teacher's school email in the first instance, or arrange to see the pupil's teacher if a problem persists.

At the beginning of each year we ask the parents/carers and children to sign a joint homework agreement, stating that they understand the expectations of them and that they will do their best to complete it in order to be the best that they can be in school.

**Reviewed**

**May 2024**