Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

Whole School Homework Policy

Created By:	Date:	Next Review Date:
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School Vision

We provide the rich soil allowing children and adults to flourish and develop deep roots. We nurture **growth**, enabling children and adults to thrive as our Christian values blossom in their lives. We cultivate a sense of pride in our rural **community** where children and adults are **loved** and valued.

May our children flourish in their youth like well-nurtured plants. Psalm 144 v 12.

Throughout our curriculum and school life, along with our school vision, these three golden strands permeate through everything we do.

Community

Jesus often spoke of unity in our communities and encouraging one another on our journey. He spoke of bearing each other's burdens in love and helping those in need.

'Live in harmony with one another.' Romans 12 v 16

Love

It says in the Bible that God is Love and encompasses all that is loving and good. Jesus showed the ultimate unconditional love when he laid down his life for us on the cross. Therefore, this love should lead to a desire to love other people.

'Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us.' Ephesians 5 v 2

Growth

Just like a plant, we must endure the difficult times along with the good; but God has sent us his Holy Spirit to help and strengthen us so we can bear fruit and grow in the likeness of Christ.

'Grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.' 2 Peter 3 v 18

At Oxenhope C of E Primary School, we believe that parents and teachers working in partnership have the best effect on children's achievement.

We also believe that children need to enjoy their childhood and so homework should not deprive them of the time and space to have family time, to play, talk, imagine, create and learn in their home situation. Children also need time to join clubs and organisations and pursue extra-curricular activities.

There is no legal obligation for primary schools to set homework, but we recognise that children can benefit from sharing their school experiences with parents/carers.

- Appendix 1 shows a guide to helping your child at home these are the things you might like to do in and amongst the homework given by the teacher
- Appendix 2 is a guide to additional learning activities which parents and children can try at home from a very young age

In order to create a policy which works for all we have consulted parents, staff and children. We believe that we have created a policy which promotes learning and the importance of homework as well as emphasising family life, relaxation time for children and positive work-life balance for teachers.

Aims of homework

- To contribute to raising standards through sustaining and consolidating the learning taking place in school.
- To help develop good learning habits and encourage children to become independent learners.
- To help children prepare for secondary school and the wider world of work.
- To help parents to understand and share in their child's learning at school.
- To enable the children to see partnership between their parents and teachers and how this benefits them.

Guidelines for Teachers

There is no legal obligation for homework to be set. However, at Oxenhope C of E Primary School, we set homework and encourage children to complete it in order to meet the above aims.

Teachers at Oxenhope are not required to mark homework. Instead, they will demonstrate that children's efforts are valued by responding to the tasks for example through discussion at the beginning of a lesson or acknowledging homework in books or through 'Homework Award' recognition in Years 3 to 6. There is also a homework display in each classroom which displays exceptional homework pieces. Staff will indicate that homework has been looked at by the use of a stamp on the piece of work.

Activities should be linked to the curriculum in the classroom and should be achievable independently.

Parents are reminded of the need to supervise their child if they are accessing the internet for research linked to homework.

The school uses the No Nonsense spelling programme. It is important that these spellings are practised at home.

Clear information will be sent to parents about homework 'handing-in' days and how the homework must be presented.

Teachers will be available to speak to parents about any queries regarding homework prior to the homework handing-in deadline.

Oxenhope C of E Primary understands that the responsibility to complete homework does not wholly reside with the children in years Reception to 3 and therefore there are no consequences for incompletion of homework in place. However, children who complete homework are praised and recognised in front of their peers and homework is celebrated with work displayed in the classroom. Conversations with parents may be had regarding homework if the teacher feels more work would be beneficial for the child. However, this will be had during a phone call or pre-arranged meeting and it is a two-way conversation which will support the family.

In year 4, 5 and 6 Oxenhope feels that it is important to 'train' children to become responsible for their own learning and therefore we encourage self-motivated learning. We recognise the importance of supporting the children to feel responsible for their learning and future, as well as teaching them about consequences of not meeting deadlines. Therefore, children who do not hand in English or Maths homework on time could miss a playtime to complete it.

Teachers will keep a log of returned homework. However, this will not be on public view and will not be used to 'name and shame' pupils.

Guidelines for Parents

We welcome parental support in ensuring that homework activities are completed to a good standard. If a child has found it hard to tackle the task set it still important that the homework is returned with a note so that the teacher is aware.

We realise that, for a variety of reasons, parents may not be able to support their child in completing homework tasks. We aim to increase parents' ability to do so through:

- Including an explanation and/or a worked example
- Providing training opportunities for parents
- Informing parents of useful websites including our own school website.

Homework packs may be given to children as national tests approach, in order to support their learning over the holiday periods.

Reading

There is an expectation that children will bring reading books home in their bags every day. Children, even when they can read fluently, will benefit from reading aloud daily to an interested parent. It is also important that children are asked to summarise their reading and challenged to question about what they have read (referring to the text for answers and proof) as well as encouraging children to predict what will happen next. It is really important that books are returned each day in good condition. Damaged or lost books will have to be paid for.

We encourage wider reading within the home. Encouraging children to read books/magazines/articles/leaflets/signs etc. will develop a love of reading and help children understand that reading is one of the main skills we need within our society. Reading of any type for between 15 and 20 minutes daily will drastically improve a child's reading age.

Reading records need to be in school every day. Free readers must also bring their reading record in every day so that an adult can hear them read if necessary. Parents must also record if they have heard their children read at home in the record.

For more information about reading at Oxenhope please refer to our reading policy.

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Homework Club

Although we recognise that the ideal situation is that parents and carers support their children with homework we realise that in a world where family life is busy and pressured we appreciate that it is not always manageable.
Should pupils have difficulty in completing homework at home, a homework session could be provided on a lunchtime or after school where pupils can raise questions to members of staff and tackle some of the homework as well as develop greater independent strategies. This is organised by the child's class teacher. Please see your child class teacher for further information.

APPENDIX 1 – A guide to helping your child at home and what to expect as homework for your child's year group.

	English activities Reading Writing Speaking Listening	**Maths activities** Please help your child to learn the following -	**Other optional enrichment activities**
Reception	Share a story book with your child daily. Help your child learn the alphabet sounds. Listen to your child read their book daily. Encourage them to retrieve facts and point to where they found it in a book.	Learn counting rhymes and songs off by heart. Recognise, recite & order the numbers 1 to 20 and count 20 objects accurately. Begin to read o'clock time. Count in twos and tens Practise counting past 50	Families may send in things related to the topic as requested by the class teacher for Show and Tell.
Year 1	Listen to your child read their book daily. Help your child learn to spell Share a free choice book with your child. Encourage them to retrieve facts and point to where they found it in a book.	Learn to count up to 100 and back to zero. Count in twos, tens and fives (times tables). Write numerals correctly starting at the top of the number. Tell the time – o'clock and half-past. Use Mathletics and TT Rockstars	Families may send in things related to the topic as requested by the class teacher for Show and Tell. Encourage your child to keep a topic scrap book at home. This can be brought to school at the end of the term. Create a holiday diary to be brought back after the holiday break. Visit a museum, art gallery or venues linked to your child's topic. Choose an activity from the topic list given at the start of the topic
Year 2	Listen to your child read their book daily Help your child learn to spell the words provided by the teacher Share a free choice book with your child. Ask them questions about the book. Complete the home-school reading record.	Learn to count past to 100 and back to zero. Times tables – practise known tables, learn the threes and fours. Cut sandwiches or fruit into halves and quarters, talk about other fractions. Know number bonds to 10 e.g. 6 + 4=10, 10 – 3 = 7 Tell the time – quarter past and quarter to (digital & analogue) Use Mathletics and TTRockstars	
Year 3	Listen to your child read their book daily Listen to your child read from a free choice book for at least 15 minutes per day and discuss what they have read. Help your child learn to spell the words provided by the teacher	Becoming fluent in all timetables Incorporate fractions into everyday life. Ongoing learning of number bonds (to 20 e.g. 14 + 6 = 20, 20 – 1 = 19) & times tables as for Y2. Know all the doubles from 1 + 1 to 20 + 20 Tell the time to 5 minute intervals (analogue & digital). Use Mathletics and TTRockstars	
Year 4	Listen to your child read their book daily or a free choice book for at least 15 minutes per day and discuss what they have read. Help your child learn to spell the words provided by the teacher Complete additional English/Grammar Punctuation homework provided.	Read numbers to 10,000 Be fluent in all timetables Multiply any number by 10 e.g. 26 x 10 = 260 Incorporate fractions into everyday life. Learn pairs of numbers that total 100 e.g. 64 + 36 = 100 Tell time to the minute - analogue & digital. Use a.m. and p.m. Use Mathletics and TTRockstars	Encourage your child to keep a linked topic scrap book at home. This can be brought to school at the end of the term. Choose a free choice activity to complete with your child from the class revision box. Visit a museum or art gallery.
Year 5	Listen to your child read their book daily or a free choice book for at least 15 minutes per day and discuss what they have read. Help your child learn to spell the words provided by the teacher Complete additional English/Grammar Punctuation homework provided.	Read numbers to 100,000 Be fluent in all timetables Multiply or divide any number by 100 e.g. 26 x 100 = 2,600 Incorporate fractions into everyday life. Learn decimals that total 1 e.g. 0.7 + 0.3 = 1	Those children who bring home an instrument must practise regularly and remember to bring their instruments when it is their music lesson day.

		Tell the time on a 24-hour digital clock. Complete maths homework provided. Use Mathletics and TTRockstars	Choose an activity from the topic list given at the start of the topic Create a holiday diary to be brought back after the holiday break.
Year 6	Listen to your child read their book daily or a free choice book for at least 15 minutes per day and discuss what they have read. Help your child learn to spell the words provided by the teacher Complete additional English/Grammar Punctuation homework provided.	Children should be comfortable and competent with their times table by YEAR 6 – if this is not the case then please work with your child to improve their pace and understanding with times tables. Read numbers to a million Multiply or divide any number by 1,000 e.g. 26 x 1000 = 26,000 Learn decimals that total 10 e.g. 5.4 + 4.6 = 10 Learn all the squared numbers up to 10 x 10 e.g. 2 x 2, 3 x 3, 4 x 4 Tell the time on a 24-hour digital clock. Complete maths homework provided. Use Mathletics and TTRockstars	

Note: Maths targets are sent home during the year at your child's level, with more suggested activities to try at home.

APPENDIX 2 - Parent/Carer and Child Activities

Use the activities offered in 50 things for primary.

Involve your child in domestic activities: -
cooking has lots of language, maths and science potential
laying the table has maths potential – patterns, numbers, sets, "next to", "left", "right", comparisons of sizes of plates etc.
going shopping – handling and counting money, sorting items in the trolley, dealing with change, discounts, special offers, let your child write the shopping list, read it to you in the shop and tick items off.

Washing – how do the clothes get clean and dry? Sort out the socks – matching pairs, find the biggest, smallest etc.

Playing with water – filling containers, guessing how many of one container fills another.

Visit the library on a regular basis and let your child join. Reading together at bedtime, discussing pictures, taking turns to read. Let your child see you reading for pleasure and information.

Teach your child nursery rhymes, poems and songs.

Provide paper, pencils/crayons to draw or write with. Any early "scribbles" are the beginning of writing and should be encouraged. Encourage your child to keep a diary for a short while, write letters, cards, etc. Maybe thank you letters after Christmas and birthday presents.

Help your child make a scrap book of places visited.

After you have watched a T.V. programme, turn the TV off and talk about it. Also encourage your child to summarise what they have watched.

Join in their imaginative games, role play, provide a dressing up box and an old blanket or sheet.

Play with your child using construction toys such as Lego, Duplo and train sets.

Do jigsaw puzzles – have you tried a 3D one?

Visit the park, play with bats, balls, skipping ropes and hoops.

Play with board games e.g. draughts, snakes and ladders, Monopoly, Scrabble, chess, also dominoes and cards.

Telling the time and timing activities.

When travelling – encourage your child to be involved in reading the timetables and discussing time until departure, length of travel etc.

There are also a wide variety of educational Apps available for children.

Look out for events at theatres and offers in the Primary Times.

Most Importantly – HAVE FUN! – It is all Educational.