



Sandhills Community Primary School

Homework Policy

Introduction

At Sandhills School, we aim to create a happy and caring place to learn where kindness and respect are at the heart of the life of the school.

The welfare of the children and their progress are of the utmost importance to us and we want to ensure that all children have the opportunity to achieve their potential both academically, so that they are ready for the next stage of their school career, and in their own personal development as individuals and citizens of the future.

In developing this policy, we have taken into consideration feedback from parents, pupils and staff.

Purpose

This policy provides clarity over the expectations of homework in each year group for staff, parents and pupils so that we have a consistent approach across the school.

Aims

This policy is in line with our vision of children achieving their full potential academically, personally and in readiness for the next stage of their education.

- To encourage independent learning from our pupils and allowing them to take responsibility for their own learning.
- To provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning.
- To enable pupils to practise and consolidate skills.
- To broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension.
- To develop independence and perseverance.
- To enable pupils to consolidate and maximise their learning and progress in school.

Definition

It is worth considering the definition of "homework". The widest definition would include: daily reading practice, spelling practice, times tables or mental maths practice, learning key words and practising phonics sounds. The narrowest definition would be: pieces of work sent home on a specific day to be handed in on a specific day with sanctions for not doing so. By referring to homework we generally mean both practice activities and weekly set activities.

Homework Help

We have created some information pages on the school website to help with reading and with practising spellings and timestables at home. These can be found at <https://sandhills.oxon.sch.uk/information/parents-information/>.

Expectations

The Foundation Stage:

Practising reading, phonics and key words should be an average of around ½ - 1 hour spread over a week. From time to time, the teachers might send home a task to be completed with an adult. The

children will be encouraged to complete these homework tasks and praised if they do but there will be no consequences if they don't.

In Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2):

Daily practising of reading, spellings, key words, phonic sounds and times tables (usually counting in 2s, 5s, 10s) should take an average of around an hour spread over a week.

The teachers will also send home a set task once a week on a Friday based on their work in English, maths or science. Our policy is to praise and encourage Key Stage 1 pupils who complete their homework tasks, there are no consequences for the child if they don't complete these tasks.

Teachers will read the tasks to the children before they are sent home and make sure the language is "child friendly".

There will also be some suggested creative projects sent home over the term based on the topic. A child's effort and creativity in completing these tasks will be celebrated in school. There are no consequences for not completing these topic projects. Some families enjoy completing these together and some families have plenty of other activities already going on.

There will be no homework tasks set over school holidays, but we would expect children to continue with some reading, spellings etc.

In Key Stage 2 (years 3 to 6):

Practising reading, spellings and times tables should be an average of around 20 minutes a day.

The teachers will also send home set tasks once a week on a Friday based on their work in English, maths or science. These tasks need to be completed in the homework books and returned to school by Wednesday morning. We would expect these tasks to take around 30 minutes a week. If they are taking your child much longer then please discuss this with the class teacher. If children don't complete these tasks at home, they will need to complete them during lunchtime homework club on a Wednesday lunchtime.

There will also be some suggested creative projects sent home over the term based on the topic. A child's effort and creativity in completing these tasks will be celebrated in school. There are no consequences for not completing these topic projects. Some families enjoy completing these together and some families have plenty of other activities already going on.

Homework might be set over school holidays, particularly in Year 6, but this would be proportionate to the length of the holiday.

Procedures and practice

Weekly homework activities will be sent home each **Friday** in the Homework Book for return to school by the following **Wednesday** morning. School staff will mark the homework between Wednesday and Friday each week, using positive comments.

Where children read 4 or more times a week **and** record this in their Reading Journals they will be rewarded with a Purple Achievement Point.

The term's creative project ideas will also be stuck into the Homework Books. The finished products of these activities may take many forms but the Homework Books could be used to record evidence if that is appropriate. The weekly practice elements will also be listed in the Homework Journal for reference.