



Shoreham Village School

Homework Policy

Ratified by Governing Body

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Date: June 2023

To be reviewed: June 2025

Shoreham Village School

HOMework POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- **This document** is a statement of the aims, principles and approaches taken to homework at Shoreham Village School.
- **This Policy was developed** in Summer 2015 through a process of consultation with parents, staff and Governors.
- **It was approved** by the Governing Body in Summer 2015

2. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This Policy clarifies the school's expectations as to work done at home, set in the context of children developing into enthusiastic, interested and independent learners. Many parents and staff wish to encourage children in activities which will be of direct benefit to their school work. Ensuring that their children have time to read, reading to/with them and visiting the local library is one example, and most parents help with the learning of tables and/or spellings sent home by the teacher.

3. BACKGROUND AND PRINCIPLES

- a) Parents and teachers expect that children should work hard at school in the National Curriculum and all other aspects of school life. Fortunately the majority of children work hard and so, when they finish the school day, need opportunities to relax (as we do after work) and talk with family and friends. It is also important that they are given opportunities to develop leisure interests covering a range of aesthetic, cultural and physical activities which will not only provide them with a lifetime interest, but will almost certainly complement and extend the work and experiences provided for them at school.
- b) Expecting children of primary school age to carry out formal homework beyond mental mathematics and/or spelling activities could lead to children being overloaded when they still have a need for relaxation and play, and to teachers, with an already full teaching day, having insufficient time to prepare and mark the additional work.
- c) However, parents will be aware that for success in school, and indeed in later life, a child will need to have developed a wide vocabulary and be able to demonstrate relatively advanced reading skills before leaving Shoreham Village School. For this reason it is essential that children are encouraged to read and discuss a variety of literature. Given the accepted limitations of time and class size in school, this is one area where parents are able to play a really significant part in their child's programme of work. The benefits brought about by reading regularly at home provide a vital foundation for future learning.
- d) The staff, however, believe that within these constraints, children at our school would benefit from working at home in order to extend their work in school. It may be that this work could practise or consolidate the work completed in class, or extend an aspect of it. In addition, some children may benefit from extra work in order to catch up on that missed through illness or lack of effort. This belief that children benefit from being given a manageable amount of work to be carried out at home is often shared by parents.

4. APPROACHES TAKEN AT SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

In order to address the need for the provision of extra work at home, whilst acknowledging the children's need for leisure time, parents are asked to support the school in helping children carry out the range of homework activities described in the following sections.

There is an expectation that **all** children will read with their parents as this is a vitally important activity. Parents are asked to monitor their children's work at home, hopefully encouraging even more contact between school and home, and reinforcing the partnership that already exists. In

general, parents are requested to give support and encouragement to their children working at home in the following ways:

a) All Year Groups

Talk with their children about the topic areas that the class is focusing on that term.

b) Reception

Read with their children for about **10 minutes daily**, discussing the story, the characters and any other aspect that will involve the children in gaining a positive feel for the book. Write initials, date and comment (if any) in reading record.

c) Years 1 & 2

- i) Read with their children for about **10 minutes daily**, discussing the story, the characters and any other aspect that will involve the children in gaining a positive feel for the book. Write initials, date and comment (if any) in reading record.
- ii) Work with their children on spellings, word patterns and mathematics skills that are sent home by the class teacher that week. This should take about **30 minutes a week**.

d) Years 3 & 4

- i) Read to and/or hear their children read and discuss the books for about **15 minutes daily**. This may include talking about the characters or what may happen next.
- ii) Help their children to learn spellings and complete a written or mental mathematics or other task. This should take about **45 minutes a week**.

e) Year 5 & 6

- i) Read to and/or children read and discuss fiction & non-books. This should take about **20 minutes a day**.
- ii) Help their children to learn spellings and practise mental mathematics skills, including number facts and multiplication tables.
- iii) Help their children with research tasks based on the class topic. Together (ii) and (iii) should take about **1 hour a week**.

HOMEWORK BOOK

It is important that there is an ongoing commitment from children and parents that homework is important. Ensuring that work completed at home is returned promptly demonstrates this commitment and encourages good work habits. To assist the smooth running of the school's Policy on homework, children are given a homework book. This should be used to record all homework set and completed (except daily reading) and travels between home and school.

A homework diary is provided at the beginning of each school year. If lost, replacements may be purchased from the school.

MONITORING THIS POLICY

The Headteacher will monitor the application of this Policy and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is operating effectively.