



ICKFORD SCHOOL

Homework Policy

October 2023

## Rationale

This policy is based on the belief that a well-managed homework programme helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education. Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important as it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home the tasks covered in class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children and young people to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life.

Homework rouses a variety of emotions amongst any parent community and we consistently review our policy so that our homework is as manageable and effective as possible. Nonetheless, whilst we would prefer to please everyone, it is impossible to do so with homework and we request that everyone supports the policy and ensures that children complete what is expected.

## Amount of Homework

The amount of compulsory homework each child receives varies according to their Key Stage and their Year group. Children and parents are welcome to supplement the statutory homework should they wish through use of activities they choose themselves or family visits to places of interest etc but these must not be instead of or in place of school homework. The school also provides advice on helping children at home.

We expect all children to read for a short time (10 – 15 minutes) on every week day and this must be recorded in their Reading Record Book. However, whilst we insist on these five days, it is evident that some children will read more than this and this is to be encouraged as regular reading has a huge impact on the children's progress in literacy. It is strongly advised that children in Years R to 5 read every day.

## Spelling

The children receive spellings to learn at home and are expected to spend some time each day carrying out a 'look, say, cover, write, check' procedure in order to help learn the words they are given. Problems occur when children try to learn them on only one attempt when we know that, spending a short amount of time each day revising and learning spellings has proved to be the best way to build up a deeper understanding and range of vocabulary. The message is, 'little and often'. We do not have a 'weekly spelling test' but teachers use a range of assessment tasks throughout the week to check that children are learning to spell correctly. In the Early Years and, if necessary, in Year 1, children are

given flashcards or a spelling ring to practise their spellings at home. These begin to be sent home once a child has learned their initial individual phonic sounds.

### Handwriting

The children in the Early Years and Key Stage 1, are expected to complete 5 minutes handwriting practice each day as well as their reading and spellings. Children in other year groups may be given handwriting as an additional homework if it is an area that needs specific development or improvement. The school will provide the handwriting materials and the correct pen to use. Children must not complete any homework using biro.

### Numeracy

All children receive some numeracy homework during the week. For KS2 children this varies between an on-line task using a computer programme called My Maths and a workbook specific for a particular age range. The school PTA cover the cost of the annual My Maths subscription and each child is given access to it from home. Children in Years 1 and 2 also have a specific workbook from which pages are selected each week. The numeracy homework is handed out on one day and expected to be handed in the following week. It is often designed so that the children can complete a part of it on separate days rather than in one whole session.

The children in both Key Stages also have access to a site called Timetables Rock Stars through which to practise their multiplication tables. Children are expected to use this site and other means in order to know their tables. Learning times tables by other means (songs, wall charts, games, on-line are also recommended).

### Written Homework

The children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6) have a Learning Log and, apart from Year 6, the children have one task to complete each week. The tasks are designed so that the children can interpret them in a personal way and use a variety of mediums to complete them. The children in Key Stage 2 also have Reading Comprehension homework to complete but this is set as an alternative to a Learning Log task. Children in Year 6 may have both a Learning Log and Reading Comprehension to complete in the same week. In addition, the children in Year 6 may also have specific Spelling and Grammar homework (SPAG).

### Assessment of Homework

Parents/carers must sign their child's Reading Record book each day. This book is an important assessment document and Class teachers check them every day to verify that they have been signed by parents. The class teacher will also include written comments in the Reading Record and points for

individual children to consider when reading at home. Parents/carers must refrain from writing notes in the Reading Records please and just sign and date them. We recognise that the system is vulnerable to exploitation but trust in the integrity of parents to set a positive example to their children and to adhere to the policy. This is also reiterated in the Home School Contract agreed and signed by all parents.

Learning Log tasks or Reading Comprehension tasks are given out on a Thursday and collected each Wednesday. Children must not hand their homework in before Wednesday of each week. Learning Logs are marked using post it notes to record teacher's comments and a selection may be marked by the Headteacher each week. Reading Comprehension is marked by the class teacher.

### The Role of Parents/Carers

Parents must recognise that homework is not optional and if set, must be completed. Ideally, we hope that parents help children to manage their time and support them in organising their homework throughout the course of a week. If there are issues with homework then parents should contact the class teacher.

Parents/carers are requested to support their child in his/her homework and where possible promote opportunities for home learning in accordance with the Home School Agreement.

Parents/carers must sign the Reading Record book to affirm that the child has completed the reading homework.

Parents/Carers must support children in presenting any homework carefully and in line with the high expectations of the school.

### Additional Homework

There are times when it is necessary to give children additional homework and it is expected to be completed. Such additions include:

- Learning a script for a production or assembly
- Learning a poem
- Finding something for a class discussion
- Recording the weather for the week
- Recording a diary of events over a week such as food/TV programmes/exercise
- Watching a media event
- Watching a TV programme on a particular day
- Learning Times Tables

- Keeping up with news events
- Learning French Vocabulary
- Handwriting Practice

## Holidays

It is not school policy to give homework during holiday periods but we encourage all children to continue with their reading and to take an interest in the world around them.

There are times when, during Key Stage 2, class teachers will set homework if it is deemed necessary for examination preparation or such events as musical performances and stage productions.

## Equal Opportunities

We recognise children as individuals and endeavour to ensure that they all reach their full potential. When setting homework, teachers should consider the different learning needs of children and those on the SEN register may be given differentiated homework according to their needs. Teachers also consider children with disabilities and severe learning difficulties and ensure that homework is matched to the child's Learning Support Plan (LSP).

Teachers take care to avoid homework that may reinforce discrimination by gender, religion, race, ethnicity or socio-economic status and any tasks that may reinforce stereotypes.

## Equalities Statement

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.