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Date.....

Review...Mar 2019

Woodford Valley C E Primary Academy Homework Policy

Woodford Valley CE Primary Academy is committed to creating the ethos in which children can grow towards Christian life, learning and love.

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. The government has made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in Schools', where homework was seen as an 'essential part of good education'. Ofsted will expect to see that 'Teachers set challenging homework, in line with the school's policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.' *School Inspection Handbook 2016*.

We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly, therefore, from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed, we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can begin to master the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is part of school/home learning, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe

they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to widen educational experiences;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of homework

We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We recommend that parents listen to their children read daily. Year 1 and 2 children also have weekly spellings to practise and learn at home. These reflect the phonics work they are doing in class and may include some common exception words. Occasionally we may ask the children to find out about a particular topic, although this remains optional. Work is also set on My Maths; each child has their own access, but the work is optional.

At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the same sort of homework activities but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set Literacy and Numeracy homework routinely and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Amount of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, which may include reading with an adult. We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately one and a half to two hours per week on homework and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately two to two and a half hours a week to include reading, learning spellings and times tables. This is in line with the DfE guidelines that were issued in 1998.

The role of pupils

We give all the children a reading record book or school homework diary where the pupil records the homework and where pupils, parents and teachers make any relevant comments. Pupils must ensure they record homework when set and always have their diary in school.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

We set homework for children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special education needs or disabilities, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents to check the home/school diary at least once a week and to sign it as requested.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Head Teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should contact the Governing Body.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the Governing Body that deals with curriculum issues. The Governing Body pays careful consideration to any concerns raised regarding homework and may, at any time, request from our Head Teacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.