



Woolden Hill
Primary School

“Homework Policy”

Review date: April 2014

Why is it important for schools to help with homework?

Along with the concern to ensure that schools have clear homework policies based on common sense and a knowledge of good practice, has come an increasing concern for the many children (primary and secondary) who are known to have difficulty in finding a comfortable place to do their homework, project work or revision. As children get older, the amount of homework tasks set increase, and the demands on pupils to complete homework to deadlines, do research, write longer essays and projects, also increases. The government recognises that some extra opportunities need to be created for these children and that families need supporting.

Introduction

This policy is also available to:

- Woolden Hill Primary School Governors.
- All staff (permanent, temporary, supply or otherwise)
- Parents (on the website)
- Advisers/Inspectors

The policy can also be found in the master policy file.

Why do we need a written homework policy?

At Woolden Hill Primary School homework is set by class teachers who decide how it can best support teaching and learning in the classroom. A written policy makes the purposes of homework and the basic principles we follow in setting and marking homework, clear to everyone involved.

Staff, governors, parents, carers and children know that the purpose of homework is to:

- Support learning in the classroom and to raise the standards of achievement.
- Enhance the learning experience for each pupil.
- Identify and highlight pupil development and pupil needs

- Ensure that parents and carers have clear expectations about their role and that of the pupil.
- To prepare pupils for the next stage of education.
- To support our whole school improvement plan.

At Woolden Hill Primary School we try to make homework an enjoyable and positive experience. In particular our homework policy will achieve:

- A consistent approach to setting, monitoring and marking homework throughout the school.
- Differentiation between the needs and learning targets of the individual pupils so that it both challenges and supports student's progression as pupils mature and become independent learners.
- Opportunities for extended reading at all ages.
- Reinforcement and consolidation of learning at all stages of development.
- Partnership for parents, carers and pupils in the learning process.
- Extra support for children with particular needs.

What do we mean by homework?

At Woolden Hill Primary School we define the term 'homework' widely, to mean any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Children perform at their best when school and home work together. Homework is an opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning. Homework should also be enjoyable for the child involved and should stimulate imagination and creativity as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Children generally enjoy continuing their activities and sharing their experiences and ideas and bringing work started at home back into school. Homework can cover a very wide range of activities, depending on the age of the child, but throughout the primary years a consistent emphasis will be put on reading for pleasure and purpose as part of homework.

Why is homework important?

At Woolden Hill Primary School homework is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school day. As such, at Woolden Hill Primary School we believe homework requires a vital commitment by teachers, pupils and parents. Teachers are required to set homework under this policy.

Homework is important for the primary pupil because it provides as means for pupils:

- To consolidate and reinforce what is learnt in the classroom.
- To build up basic skills (particularly reading, writing and numeracy)
- To become curious and independent learners.
- To develop good study habits
- To prepare for the next stage of education.

Homework set at Woolden Hill Primary School is meant to fulfil these objectives. In addition, homework is a key part of our home-school policy. It is important that every child sees that home and school are working together in partnership to provide help, support and encouragement. Homework can help to promote a positive attitude to learning at home and provides a vital link between home and school.

Additional Educational Needs

Homework for children with additional educational needs will reflect their different needs and abilities and may be related to their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Class teachers will also ensure that homework set:

- Is differentiated for and appropriate to the individual needs of the child.
- Is varied and with a range of ways of showing progress.
- Has a clear focus and manageable timetable.

How will pupils and parents know what has been achieved?

At Woolden Hill Primary School our pupils, parents and staff expect and receive immediate and appropriate feedback on homework. Ways of providing these include:

- Monitoring the reading/homework book.
- Verbal feedback from class teachers/teaching assistants to each pupil.
- Marking for achievement and/or effort of routine written tasks.
- Written comments on longer written assignments.
- Praise and recognition in class and assemblies which reward and motivate all pupils.

How parents and carers can support pupils' learning through homework.

Parents and carers play a vital role in their children's lasting success. At Woolden Hill Primary School, homework plays a valuable part of our home-school policy as a whole. That partnership is reflected in our Home-School agreement which makes it clear that we see the support for homework as a joint undertaking. Each child is provided with a homework book which invites parents to comment upon homework given. We aim to involve parents wherever possible in supporting their children's learning. We recommend that parents give a little time every day for homework rather than an intensive period once or twice a week. Parents and carers can help with homework in different ways at different stages. Most importantly, parents and carers are asked to:

- Make it clear to pupils how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Praise and encourage pupils when they take pride in their homework.
- Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions such as television, where pupils can concentrate on their homework. If this is difficult, parents might encourage pupils to attend other places where homework can be done, such as study clubs, study support centres, or libraries.
- Encourage pupils of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible.
- Ensure Contact books are filled in as appropriate.

Setting homework for different stages.

In setting homework we will plan to:

- Establish a familiar routine for pupils and parents.
- Reflect the age and capacity of the pupils involved.

For pupils of all ages, homework will be set systematically by class teachers and each child will keep a book containing evidence of homework set. Wherever possible, similar activities will be given out on the same day each week. It will be made clear as

appropriate, that some homework will take longer than one day and time will be provided to ensure that it can be completed. As the children reach upper Key Stage 2 they will be expected to organise their homework time and decide when to complete each task in the time given.

Homework set at Woolden Hill Primary School is monitored to determine:

- That these aims are being met.
- That the full ranges of types of homework are being set consistently.

Supporting teaching and learning through homework.

The person with the major responsibility for seeing that homework is completed is the class teacher. Staff see this responsibility as an important part of their professional duties. In addition, we provide for an overview of the homework that is set in the school.

There is a designated senior member of staff responsible:

- For managing the policy.
- For ensuring that it is implemented and monitored as part of the School Improvement Plan.
- For responding to concerns of parents.

At the moment the designated member of staff is Mr. Peet

Our planning identifies that all staff share an understanding that homework needs to be:

- Specific, differentiated and manageable for pupils at different ages and can be appropriately supported by parents and carers.
- Regularly monitored to ensure that the demands of homework are as evenly balanced as possible.
- Clearly linked to daily progress in the classroom, in particular, in relation to literacy, numeracy and ICT.
- Regularly monitored and evaluated internally by staff.
- In addition the school recognises that the homework policy is part of the induction process of NQT's and other staff who join the school.

Helping pupils to achieve through homework.

Pupils are different and work and learn at different speeds. Teachers plan homework as part of their schemes of work for different areas of the curriculum, particularly literacy and numeracy.

At Woolden Hill Primary School we ensure that pupils of all ages understand what they are expected to do at home, and why, and how it will help them to improve their work in class. A clear description of why homework is an important aspect of their education will be provided for older pupils. That description will make it clear that:

- A positive attitude towards homework is part of helping pupils to achieve high standards.
- Homework will be marked and monitored to high and consistent standards.
- Homework will be returned to pupils speedily and marked in a way which they can understand and improve upon.
- A positive attitude towards homework will help pupils when they reach secondary school.

The time set for homework is less important than the quality of tasks set and the way in which they relate clearly to supporting learning in the classroom.

Homework may not be set when children are just beginning a new school year, or completing statutory and optional tests. There may be times when homework will cover more than one week due to the nature of the tasks set.

Nonetheless in our homework policy we set out a framework which follows the Government's Homework Guidelines and recommends certain periods of time to be spent on homework at different stages. This is a helpful guideline for parents and pupils. It also helps to create an expectation and a discipline for regular, and when appropriate, independent reading and learning.