

WITTON CHURCH WALK CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY 2018



A PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOL, HOME, PARISH & COMMUNITY.

'Where Every Door is Opened and Every Gift is Unlocked'

At Witton we are a partnership of school, church, home and community. We create a stimulating and caring environment, grounded in Christian belief and practice, so that all members of our school community feel happy, safe and secure. Time is taken to value and nurture each child educationally, creatively and spiritually. Children and staff are encouraged to aim for 'Everyday Excellence' and believe in themselves in order to achieve their full potential.

Our school works within the recommendations of The Equality Act 2010.

Introduction

We view homework as anything which children do outside the school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework includes a variety of activities to support children's learning. Homework is an important element of the learning partnership involving parents, teachers and children in a process aimed at raising standards, maximising educational opportunity and widening the breadth of experiences for all our children e.g. A parent, who spends time reading a story with their child before bedtime, is helping with homework.

Aims

- (a) to consolidate and extend learning
- (b) to develop effective partnership between parents and teachers in the education of children
- (c) to promote good study habits and positive attitudes to learning
- (d) to raise expectations and aspirations
- (e) to allow your child to achieve in all aspects of school life
- (f) to develop a lifelong love of learning and the impact of learning to the development of them as an individual

Types of homework

At Witton Church Walk we set a variety of homework activities to support and extend learning.

Early Years/Key Stage 1:

- We encourage children to read daily with their parents. It is an expectation that this is done a minimum of 5 times a week and it is recorded in your child's Reading Record
- Practise weekly phonic patterns

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- Learn to read and spell keywords
- Build up number recognition, calculate number bonds, begin to learn times tables and apply new skills to practical problems
- Research for a planned theme by gathering first-hand information
- Extend their learning through practical activities based on the children overarching theme
- In KS1 English and Maths, books are used weekly

Key Stage 2:

In addition to activities outlined in the previously we expect them to become increasingly independent and to adopt good study habits.

- To value the impact of homework in further developing their understanding of new skills
- To continue a daily reading; this may be more independent but must still be recorded in the Reading Record by an adult
- Set English and Maths homework weekly based on the unit of work being taught.
- Research themes involving access to computing resources and practical challenges will be set to build on prior learning and extend pupils experiences of real-life applications.
- Preparing for oral presentations on either school directed research or personal interests.
- Homework will be set to help revise for end of Key Stage tests (e.g. end KS2 SAT's) to ensure that prior learning has been understood. It is imperative that this revision is supported by families and that it is completed.

Amount of homework

In 2012 the Government ended the homework guidelines and gave head teachers the discretion to decide how much homework is set to compliment and reinforce class work – not to meet the times suggested. At our school we would expect the quality of the homework to override the quantity.

Key Stage 1 Children: to spend approximately one hour a week (including reading with a parent).

Key Stage 2 Children

Years 3 and 4: to spend approximately 2 hours per week.

Years 5 and 6: to spend approximately 3 hours per week.

We wish to encourage a good home learning experience for every child and respect that family circumstances often mean that homework needs to be flexible. Homework should benefit progress without placing unnecessary pressure on children, parents or staff. The most successful approach is to adopt a routine which best fits your child, your family circumstances and allows for special family events etc. This can involve a daily pattern of 10+ minutes, alternate days of 20+ minutes or longer blocks over a weekend.

At the beginning of each term every class will send out 'Curriculum Theme Overview' outlining the progressive skills and knowledge to be covered and suggested homework for the term ahead. In addition to this teachers will provide parents with a grid of learning activities based on the curriculum theme. Teachers will provide an example or guidance for each activity in the

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grid in italics underneath the activity to support and guide parents. Grid homework is not compulsory but it is celebrated widely in each classroom, extends and deepens your child's knowledge and understanding about the theme they are learning about.

English and maths homework must be completed.

There is also a homework club each Tuesday in school which is supported by three teaching assistants which all children are welcome to attend.

- Support and guidance for additional websites to enhance your child's learning can be found on the class website.
- Although homework will not be marked in details it will always be stamped so you know staff have checked it.

Pupils with special educational needs

Whilst all home work should be appropriate to a child's level of learning, there are special considerations to be given to pupils with special needs, intervention support or more able programmes for learning.

Children who are receiving additional support as part of their IEP or are engaged in an intervention programme to accelerate progress will often be given home learning activities in addition to the usual class set homework; we will always advise parents of the priority which should be given to any work which is tailored to support their child. It is imperative that this additional work is completed if your child is to accelerate their progress and meet end of year targets.

Homework and Achievement

There is research and evidence that shows that children who are encouraged to extend their learning at home and who see their families as learning role models enjoy far greater success and have higher attainment than those who do not. This is proven research and if you would like any further information please pop in to speak to the head teacher.

A partnership between home and school is vital, showing an interest, supporting, encouraging, and reading with and to. Positive reinforcement is essential. Remember, to allow your child to achieve in all aspects of life, parental and school participation is vital in order for your child to enjoy success!

Communication and Feedback

Parents should check the home/school diary/reading record each week, sign it and comment in it as requested. It is through this dialogue between home and school that children's learning is supported. Teachers will stamp or comment that they have acknowledged parents weekly support.

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English and maths homework will be acknowledged by the teacher with a comment, tick or stamp. Grid homework will be celebrated in class through showing or putting it on display.

If parents have any problems, or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact their child's class teacher.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and monitor this policy. Our governing body may, will regularly receive feedback from the Headteacher on how homework is organised and its impact on learning.

Signed:

Chair of Governors: _____

Headteacher: _____

Date: _____