

## **William Austin Infant School**

### **Homework Policy**

**January 2023**

#### **Rationale**

At William Austin Infant School, we believe that homework adds a very valuable dimension, with parents and school working in partnership to help children to develop, practise and consolidate newly learned knowledge and skills.

Homework for infant children should be comprised of relevant activities that children can do, with the active support of their families, to enhance their learning opportunities. Therefore, homework will not be compulsory for infant children but there is an expectation that parents and carers will support their children's learning in this way.

#### **Aims**

Through this policy we aim to:-

- Provide opportunities for parents, children and school to work in partnership.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure the needs of the individual child are taken into account.
- Ensure that parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their child.
- Extend and support learning experiences.
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together and enjoy learning experiences.

#### **Guidelines**

The amount of time that children spend on activities at home will depend on their age and individual needs, and also the contribution that their families can, or will, provide. Activities will be designed so that parents and carers will be able to support the child. We believe it is important that activities need to be challenging, but will not require either the child or the adult involved to spend an inordinate amount of time on them. We also recognise the importance of the development of social skills, through the home and family environment and play as essential to children's development.

#### **The Policy in Practice**

Instructions will be provided for parents on ways to help their child.

#### **Reading**

In year R as soon as the teacher considers the child to be ready, children will have a reading book that is specifically matched to their phonics stage of learning. This is informed by teacher assessment. The book will be read at least twice in school and then sent home on a Friday. The children will read this book to their parent hopefully every day. Children will return the book on the following Monday. Children will also take home a weekly 'sharing' book. This book is chosen by children and the children will not be expected to read this to their parents. Instead parents are requested to read this book to their child.

It is the responsibility of the child's parent to look after the book. We recommend the purchase of a school book bag to ensure the book is taken from and returned to school. When the parent has read

the reading book with their child they are asked to make a comment or sign to communicate with the class teacher that their child has successfully read the book. A new book will be sent home weekly.

Some children in Year 2 will also take home an Accelerator Reader book. Children are expected to read these books every day and then quiz on them once back in school.

Approximately 10 minutes a day should be spent on reading in Year R, and up to 20 minutes in Years 1 and 2.

### Homework in Year R

In the Autumn term we make a Phonics Book for each child. Once a week the new letters learnt at school are added to the book. We ask parents and carers to look at these books with their child, to reinforce letter and sound knowledge. It is important that the Phonics Book is returned to school every Monday, together with the child's reading book once they have been given one. In the Summer term an activity will be set on Google Classroom every week for the child to complete at home with their parent or carer. This will be linked to what the child has been learning in school and will alternate between Maths and Phonics. The task on Google Classroom will be set on Tuesday evening and is expected to be completed and handed in by lunchtime the following Monday.

### Homework in Year 1

Homework will be set via Google Classroom on a Friday and should be completed and returned to school by the following Wednesday. Every week the children will be given a Learning Log activity, Phonics activity and Maths. The Learning Log activities are linked to the children's learning in class. These may reflect their learning in English, Maths or the topic being studied. The Phonics homework will be linked to the sounds that the children are covering in school. The Maths homework will be linked to the Maths learning that the children have covered in school.

In the Summer term, children will have spellings to bring home and learn for a spelling test each week.

Children are expected to read their reading book over the weekend and return it to school on the Monday.

### Homework in Year 2

In Year 2 homework is assigned every week on Google Classroom on Wednesday. It is due back the following Monday.

Every week the children will be given a learning activity that has either an English, Science, PSHE or Topic focus. Sometimes this will be linked to the topic being studied. The activity will relate to work that has been covered in class during the week. Children also take Maths homework every week. This homework will aim reinforce the learning from the past week. Children are expected to show their working out to solve calculations. All of this homework will be set on Google Classroom.

Every Monday, children will have spellings to take home to learn and they will have the spellings test the following Monday. Spellings will be linked to the sounds or spelling patterns that the children learn during the week. These may also contain 'tricky words'.

### Learning spellings

The best way to help children to learn words is to:

- Read the word - look for patterns or spelling rules.
- Cover it up
- Write it down
- Check the spelling

It is also helpful to try using the new spellings in sentences.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

Where children have an Individual Education Plan, the Inclusion Manager will advise teachers on particular activities that can be done at home to help the child. Parents can discuss these activities with the teacher at review meetings.

### **Monitoring**

Children's response to homework will be monitored sometimes through results of tests, such as spelling or maths, and through progress in reading.

Children who complete homework will be rewarded through praise and occasionally, special awards such as dojo points. We look at the work children do at home with pleasure knowing that they are supported by parents/carers, and that they are keen to do it. Work on Google Classroom will be marked by the class teacher and sent back to the child.

Parents/Carers are encouraged to talk to or email their child's teacher in the first instance if they have any concerns about the homework or if they have any issues accessing the homework via Google Classroom. If parents/carers do not feel their concern has been addressed, they can contact the headteacher via the School Office.

### **Review**

The effectiveness of the policy will be reviewed during each school year. The policy itself will be reviewed on a biennial basis.

Reviewed in January 2023

Next review January 2025