

Policy reviewed: Autumn 2024
Next Review: Autumn 2027
Person responsible-Headteacher



SHEEN MOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is an ideal opportunity for children to develop skills to work independently at home, whilst consolidating skills learnt at school. Working independently does not always mean working alone, or not asking for help, but rather is about increasingly taking responsibility to plan, manage and review work, developing initiative and confidence. At Sheen Mount, the homework set reflects this philosophy and teachers, together with Phase Leaders, plan homework that fulfils this purpose.

Definition

Homework refers to any activity which children are asked to do outside lesson times. This may be work for them to complete on their own, or with parents or carers. The homework may be a highly structured task or an open-ended activity. Our aim at Sheen Mount is to ensure that homework activities are purposeful, enjoyable and varied and relate to the ongoing school curriculum. There is also an expectation that children will read every night. Regular reading is hugely important to develop confidence, to deepen understanding of the world in which we live, to spark imagination and to stimulate curiosity. Each phase will suggest a daily recommended reading time. Homework is set on our interactive learning platform, Google Classroom.

Purpose

- to encourage children to develop the skill, confidence and motivation to become more independent learners
- to contribute to the learning experience and instill good learning habits
- to foster a love of learning outside of school
- to consolidate, and reinforce, the skills and understanding developed at school
- to extend school learning through activities such as additional reading and research, additional challenges and open ended questions
- to develop an effective partnership between home and school
- to explore the wider range of resources that are not always available in the classroom

Partnership

We believe that children learn best when there is a strong partnership between parents and the school. Where parents support their child with homework activities, and show a commitment to the school homework policy, the homework is likely to be more effective. We are very keen to ensure that parents are fully supported in helping children with homework tasks, through information in termly curriculum letters, newsletters and at parent / teacher consultation meetings.

EYFS

In Reception, parents are encouraged to be involved with their children's learning from the beginning of their time in Sheen Mount. From the start of the first term, phonic sheets, reflecting the sound being learnt, are sent home and, subsequently, phonics games, word lists and eventually books are sent home as the children progress in their ability to read words. Weekly maths learning is also sent home. Homework is given out on a Thursday and taken in on a Wednesday.

KS1

In Years 1 and 2, homework is set on a Thursday and is due back on a Tuesday. This means that homework can be completed on a school night, if this is preferable, or can be undertaken at the weekend. One piece of homework is given each week - maths, English or topic based, along with weekly spellings and daily reading. Homework is set on Google Classroom. Reading records are still given with 2-3 comments per half term. Year 1 use a single homework book for everything. Year 2 have a separate homework book for maths homework.

LKS2

In Years 3 – 4, homework is set on a Thursday and is due back in on a Tuesday. This means that homework can be completed on a school night, if this is preferable, or can be undertaken at the weekend. 2 pieces of homework are posted on the Google Classroom (one maths and one English / humanities). There is also a reading record activity to complete each week and the children are expected to read every day at home. We encourage families to practice their times table facts every day and post key spelling words each half term.

UKS2

In Years 5-6, homework is set on a Thursday and is due back in on the specified day after the weekend. At least 2 pieces of homework are given each week. All homework is set and completed using Google Classroom. As part of homework, children are required to read for 30 minutes daily.

In order to prepare children for the transition to secondary school, there are consequences should children not hand their homework in on time. This involves having to complete the homework during a lunchtime. Having external academic or social commitments are not valid reasons for handing homework in late.

Enrichment homework

All of KS1 and KS2 (both LKS2 and UKS2) will set weekly optional enrichment homework. This is designed to challenge children with a particular focus on low threshold high ceiling activities. This homework can be from across the curriculum.

Children with Additional Needs

Children with special educational needs will be expected to complete homework tasks in line with the other children, whenever possible. However, some children may require different tasks and more parental input or may have activities identified on their EHCPs which require support at home or at school. Teachers will be aware of children's individual needs, and take account of them in setting homework. Class teachers liaise closely with the Inclusion Leader and the 1:1 support staff, to ensure that children receiving support are not overloaded with homework activities. SEN children, and any other children for whom working at home is more difficult for any reason, may be invited to a weekly Homework Club (Key Stage 2 only) which takes place after school. This club is by invitation and targets any children who need additional support. Children in Key Stage 1, who need additional help, are supported by the 1:1 support staff who works most closely with them.

The Role of Parents and Carers

We hope that parents will:

- help to provide a reasonably peaceful place for children to do homework activities
- make it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school homework policy
- encourage and praise their child for effort in homework activities
- encourage children to complete work independently unless support is specified
- become actively involved in joint homework activities especially with younger children

Feedback for pupils, parents and carers

Teachers will aim to give children positive feedback whenever possible. This may be through written comments, on Google Classroom, or in homework books or reading diaries or through verbal praise, stickers or other awards. Teachers will discuss homework activities with parents at parent consultation meetings, and ensure that parents are aware of the school expectations, how their own child is doing and targets for improvement. Teachers welcome feedback from parents, on how children responded to tasks and whether particular tasks were given at a suitable level. Parents are encouraged to communicate between home and school through the usual channels.

Monitoring & evaluation of the homework policy

The effectiveness of the homework policy will be monitored, alongside other aspects of teaching and learning, by the Extended Leadership Team (Phase Leaders and Senior Leadership Team).

This policy was developed in consultation with pupils, staff, parents and school governors.