

# Every Child Matters and Every Day Counts



## Lammack Community Primary School Homework Policy

Adopted Date Autumn 2006

Reviewed Autumn 2023

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### Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help pupils make maximum progress.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Promote a positive partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Consolidate and reinforce work covered in school and enable children to further practise basic skills taught in lessons.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to become an independent learner.
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

### The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

### Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

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Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

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### **What is the role of the school?**

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.

### **What is the role of the teacher?**

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To provide materials for recording and storing homework (e.g. book/paper/worksheet/folder).
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

### **What is the role of the parent?**

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To sign the child's homework diary on a weekly basis indicating completion of homework or any problems.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

### **What is the role of the child?**

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set and record it in their homework diary (KS2).
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

### **Homework in Reception**

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception. The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

### **What type of work will my child get?**

#### **Reading**

Parents will be informed of the themes and phonemes that the children are learning in school each half term.

Starting in the Autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading and phonics.

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- **Adults reading to children.**

Parents are encouraged to use the Library book which children are free to choose in Library sessions. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the pictures and predicting the story are very important.

- **Children reading to an adult.**

From day one, during the first half term children will bring home books without words for discussion and prediction. When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to read to an adult. The children should be encouraged to point to the words as they are being read. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language and story structure.

### **Phonics**

At the beginning of the child's first term in Reception, the Reception teachers will provide parents with both a sheet to support children with letter formation and one which shows symbols for the different phonemes. In the first term children have a homework book where they are encouraged to make a collection of pictures, labels etc based on the four phonemes for the week. In the second term they draw pictures to represent phonemes in words.

### **Tricky Words.**

Children learn to read tricky words as part of 'Letters and Sounds'. After the children have learned the tricky words in each phase parents will be sent a list of the words the children are learning. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. In the summer term, the teachers send home differentiated spellings based on High Frequency Words. It would be useful if these words were practised on a regular basis before year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

## **Homework in Key Stage 1.**

For children in Key Stage One we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy, reading and mathematics. As a general rule children will receive two pieces of work (Maths, English or topic) and reading and spellings.

### **What type of work will my child get?**

#### **Reading.**

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in year one and two. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words, sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an

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unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

### **Literacy.**

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

### **Spelling**

Children will be given lists of spellings to learn covering phonics, high frequency words and topic words as appropriate.

### **Mathematics**

There are important skills that children should have in place by the time they leave Key stage one. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills.

- Children should be confident in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Children should be able to double each number up to 20.
- Children should be able to halve each even number up to 20.
- Children should know their number bonds of all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Children should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.
- Children should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

Teachers will also send home other homework, as appropriate such as key number facts and shape names to learn.

## **Homework in Key Stage 2.**

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be Literacy and Mathematics however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

### **What type of work will my child get?**

#### **Reading.**

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Children need a clear

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understanding of the story that will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts. Children in Key Stage 2 are responsible for filling in their reading record every day and making sure it is in school.

### **Literacy.**

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

### **Mathematics**

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

### **Other Areas.**

Work could be linked to any other curriculum area, Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview. The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas.

### **How can parents find out more information about homework?**

Each year group will inform the parents about homework in the 'Welcome to Class' meetings held at the beginning of the year, explaining when it will be given out and when it should be handed in. Teachers will have different systems for handing in homework and they will tell parents and children about this at the beginning of the year.

If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can talk to the class teacher.

### **Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?**

Children who take part in specialised lessons such as Booster classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done.

Additionally children who work in a one to one situation with teaching assistants will sometimes be given extra homework.

In both cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise.

If the child is finding they have too much work then parents should speak to the child's teacher or the person running the extra sessions.

### **What about children who don't complete homework?**

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to parents to find out why. There may be occasions when a child will miss playtime or some of a lunch time if they have not completed homework.

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### **Holidays Taken During Term Time – Discretionary Leave**

Holidays during term time are not authorised and could lead to a fine from the Local Authority. The Headteacher can only authorise discretionary leave in exceptional circumstances. If a child goes on holiday during term time teachers are not required to set additional work. Children going on discretionary leave could keep a diary.

### **What if a child says they have not received homework?**

If there is any reason why a child will not receive homework then the teacher will inform parents. If parents have not received this information then they should check with the child's teacher. There may be occasions if the teacher is away that the homework is not set but we will try to avoid that happening.

### **How will the homework be marked?**

Teachers will mark children's homework in a variety of ways but always according to the schools marking policy. Sometimes the work will be 'quality marked'. This is when a piece of work is marked in detail and comments about future progress are added to the work. On other occasions the work may be marked orally with the child or the class and there will not be evidence from the teacher in the child's book. Teachers generally will not mark homework that is handed in late.