**Willow Primary Academy**

**Learning at Home Policy**



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| **Willow Primary Academy –**  **Taking PRIDE in all we do**  **Promoting Positivity, Nurturing Respect, Celebrating Individuality, Fostering Determination, Striving for Excellence**  **Policy Review Schedule**  **Date agreed:** September 2023  **Next review due:** September 2025  **Distributed to staff:** September 2023  **Signed by SLT:** P Hales  **Signed by chair of governors:** |

## Introduction

At Willow Primary Academy, we believe that homework can add much to a pupil’s development and attainment and is therefore an important part of a child’s education.

## Aims of the policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

* Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest
* Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
* To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
* To make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school
* Make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers
* Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

## Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

## Principles

* The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child’s age and ability.
* Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
* Teachers ensure that the tasks are purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
* Teachers provide parents and pupils with motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
* High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
* Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant
* Parents will be informed about our aims in setting homework and about the importance this type of work plays in children’s education

## Homework Activities

Doodle Learning is an online platform that is used to provide homework for English, Maths, Spelling and Times Tables. Pupils are expected to earn at least 50 stars per week over a minimum of 3 of the different areas. Teachers monitor engagement regularly throughout the week. Each week the highest scoring pupil is awarded with the Top Doodler certificate.

Pupils are expected to read regularly at home in order to become a skilled reader who reads with good fluency. To encourage them to read for pleasure, pupils can choose to read their school books or something of their own, e.g. comic, joke book etc. Each read is recorded in their reading diaries and these are checked weekly by the teacher. Each week the pupil who has read the most times at home is awarded a book from the school’s vending machine.

Pupils also have the option to complete our Creative Curriculum homework. Teachers set half-termly homework menus for each class in order to provide a range of engaging activities for the children to choose from to motivate and inspire them into becoming independent learners. These are based on learning from a range of subject.

* The menus offer a choice of homework tasks that can be completed in any order.
* Pupils hand their homework in to their class teacher when it is completed.
* Children receive a new menu at the beginning of each term.
* Children have the opportunity to complete more tasks if they wish to do so. Some tasks will have an optional challenge that the children can complete to extend their learning further.

All children who complete homework activities will receive Dojo points to spend in the school shop.

A breakdown of how homework is structured in each class is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for secondary school.

## EYFS (Acorn)

* Reading and sharing books daily; adults to keep a signed record in the Home-School Diary
* Fortnightly ‘Challenges’ – ideas for parents/carers to try at home and post photos and comments on Tapestry
* Children will be given additional ‘top-up’ practice of phonic sounds and/or common exception words on a weekly basis
* Doodle Learning

## Key Stage 1 (Ash & Birch)

* Reading/sharing books with parents/carers and recording in the Reading Diary
* Doodle Learning
* Creative Curriculum Homework Menu activities linked to the current topic – at least 5 per half term

## Lower Key Stage 2 (Chestnut & Elm)

* Reading regularly at home and recording in the Reading Diary.
* Doodle Learning
* Creative Curriculum Homework Menu activities linked to the current topic – at least 5 per half term

## Upper Key stage 2 (Maple & Oak)

* Reading regularly at home and recording in the Reading Diary.
* Doodle Learning
* Creative Curriculum Homework Menu activities linked to the current topic – at least 5 per half term
* Children may be given a specific English and/or Maths activity
* From the Spring Term, Y6 children will also have SATs revision as homework

Expectations

It is the expectation that *all* children will at least attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability. If pupils need support to access these activities, then they are invited to attend the weekly lunch-time and after-school homework club, run by staff, where IT and stationery will be readily available.

Dates for completing homework and expectations are always made explicit by the class teacher via Class Dojo.

Pupils are expected to complete homework to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g., neat handwriting, accurate use of full stops and capital letters etc.

## How you can help your child with their homework

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it.

The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework via Class Dojo or on our website.

As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child’s homework by:

* providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
* making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
* encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
* signing and dating your child’s reading diary
* ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
* checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework

Additionally, you can support your child’s development by helping them complete their ‘Willow Wonder’s booklets when they are sent home.

## Feedback

All homework is checked by the class teacher and feedback should be provided in a timely fashion.