



Sandy Hill Academy Homework Policy

Statement of Intent

Sandy Hill Academy is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward-thinking and safe learning environment in which children are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling primary school education.

At Sandy Hill, we believe that homework plays an important part in a child's education. The benefit of doing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent study can be achieved.

We are also aware that children have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. We will give careful consideration to making homework well-balanced across the school.

This Homework Policy was developed in consultation with staff members, parents, pupils and with the full agreement of the hub councillors.

Aims

Sandy Hill's Homework Policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regard to homework.
- Ensure that parents have clarity on what their child is expected to do.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work their child is covering.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experiences by extending it beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practice and deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

1. Responsibilities

1.1. The role of the Head of School and governing body:

- Frequently check compliance of the policy.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the policy every year.
- Review the policy every year and make appropriate updates as required.
- Discuss with staff how far the policy is being implemented.
- Meet with parents as appropriate.
- Support parents with information about homework.
- Inform new parents about the Homework Policy.

1.2. The role of the teacher:

- Plan and set up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Provide an explanation of homework tasks and ensure all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensure all homework given is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Set homework that is appropriate to the child's ability.
- Monitor homework regularly and make sure pupils are completing it.
- Mark homework and give written or verbal feedback to pupils.
- Communicate with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Be available for discussion if necessary to parents and pupils about homework.
- Set homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensure homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of pupils with disabilities are considered.
- Reward quality work and praise children who regularly complete homework.

1.3. The role of parents/carers:

- Support their child in completing homework
- Become involved in their child's homework and encourage their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Make sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Provide suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Praise their child and celebrate achievements with regard to their homework.
- Inform teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operate with the school to find a solution.
- Keep the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and homework.
- Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.

1.4. *The role of pupils:*

- Take responsibility for their own learning and submit completed work in a timely manner.
- Have a positive approach towards homework.
- Put the same effort into homework as would be expected of class work.
- Make sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seek clarification if required.
- Ensure that they have everything they need to complete homework and return to school all books/stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Take pride in the presentation and content of their homework and perform to a high personal standard.

2. Homework Tasks – Current Practice

2.1. At the start of each new academic year, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework and parents will be notified of any significant changes throughout the year.

2.2. Teachers will explain the organisation of homework to parents at the parents' welcome meeting in July.

2.3. Every term, the school website will inform parents about the main topics and units of work being covered by each year group.

2.4. All pupils will have homework books in which they complete their homework or be issued with a homework folder to keep their homework neat and organised. Key Stage 2 children will record homework in their homework diaries.

2.5. Every pupil will receive weekly homework and the class teacher will inform children and parents which day it is given out and collected in.

2.6. Homework will be marked every week, either by the teacher or the pupils as a whole class. Homework may be kept in school for display purposes or to form part of the teacher's assessments.

2.7. Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss any errors with their child. If they have any queries, they should make an appointment to see their child's class teacher. Feedback from parents about their child's homework is also welcomed by the school.

2.8. At Sandy Hill, pupils will be given a weekly activity. The amount will be appropriate for the year group they are in. This will increase in Year 6 during the lead up to the SATs tests and children will be fully prepared for this. See table below.

2.9. The amount of homework will increase as the child progresses through school. Teachers may occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they feel it would be beneficial.

2.10. The table below shows expected homework. These are guidelines. Daily reading is expected and encouraged and on occasions tasks will be set in addition to the below activities.

Year Group	Homework	Guide Time	Total/Week
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phonics Phonic/ Common Exception Words Reading Book Spellings/Letter formation (Spring and Summer Term) Newsletter at beginning of each term with optional home learning opportunity Holiday homework e.g. name writing, sentence writing, maths related activity. 	15 minutes per night maximum	1hr 15
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Common Exception Words/Phonics Spellings x5-10 (including dictated sentence) Maths English/Grammar Optional project work (art and creativity, topic or science and technology) 	15 minutes per night maximum	1hr 15
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Spelling x10 (including dictated sentence) Times Tables Maths English/Grammar Optional project work (art and creativity, topic or science and technology) 	15 minutes per night maximum	1hr 15
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Spelling x10 and two definitions Times Tables Maths English/Grammar Topic when appropriate 	20 minutes per night maximum	1hr 40
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Spelling x10 and definitions Times Tables Maths English/Grammar Topic when appropriate 	20 minutes per night maximum	1hr 40
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Spelling x10 (+5 from previous weeks) Times Tables Maths English/Grammar Topic when appropriate 	20 minutes per night maximum	1hr 40
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading (after Christmas additional reading practice) Spelling activities Times Tables Maths (after Christmas additional arithmetic/reasoning practice) Grammar activities Topic when appropriate 	30 minutes per night maximum	2hrs 30

3. Absences

3.1. If the child is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will supply work for these periods if pupils are well enough to undertake work. Children are expected to catch up on missing homework.

3.2. If the child is absent for a long period of time, e.g. with a broken arm, the teacher and the parent of the child will agree on what should be done and how much help should be given to the child.

4. Pupils who fail to complete homework

4.1. All pupils are expected to complete homework on time. Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework which will be regularly checked. If pupils fail to complete homework, teachers will contact parents to find out why and offer support, such as Homework Club.

5. Marking homework

5.1. Homework may be marked in a variety of ways according to the school's marking policy including self-marking as the children move into KS2. The work will be ticked to show that it has been marked. Sometimes, the work is marked in detail and comments are given on future progress. Occasionally, the work may be marked orally with the child or class. Teachers will not mark homework that is handed in late unless it is due to absence.

6. Pupils with SEND

6.1. The school recognises that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may require that specific tasks be set in the form of Individual Education Plans.

6.2. While pupils with SEND may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework received from other pupils, it is important that they also do as much in common with other pupils.

6.3. A balanced amount of the right type of homework will be set for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the teachers and SENDCo.

7. Equal Opportunities

7.1. At Sandy Hill, governors and staff members are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background. All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

8. Policy review

8.1. This policy is reviewed every year by the SLT team.

8.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is November 2020