



WESTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY

The term 'homework' refers to any activities or pieces of work which children are asked to complete outside lesson time, either on their own or with their parents' help.

Aims

- To extend school learning
- To develop an effective partnership between home and school
- To encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to work on their own, preparing them for the requirements of the secondary school.

Objectives

- To provide homework to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in literacy and numeracy
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together and enjoy learning experiences
- To provide an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning as they become older
- To ensure that the individual needs of children are taken into account
- To ensure that both children and parents have a clear understanding about the school's expectations regarding homework.

At Westfield we realise that the pressures on 'family life' can be substantial. We recognise that children need time to relax and involve themselves in the range of leisure pursuits, which are available to them after school and at weekends. Play and involvement in leisure activities are an important part in the education of any child.

We will endeavour to provide opportunities to extend learning and develop the home school partnership. We realise that everyone's expectations need to be realistic and achievable, culminating in happy, contented children not frazzled pupils who no longer enjoy their schoolwork.

The response to our request for opinions regarding homework was much appreciated and we have taken into account the views of parents, hopefully succeeding in having a balanced approach to homework.

Types of homework

The main focus of homework throughout the school is on literacy and numeracy. Regular reading and the sharing of books are crucial if progress is to be made and all pupils are expected to read at home on three separate occasions each week. Bug Club provides opportunity for online reading and home comprehension activities, while Abacus online provides maths home maths activities to consolidate learning.

Curriculum letters are sent home termly in order to inform parents about the areas being studied and this will allow parents to become involved with their children's school work by visiting places of interest linked to their studies.

All homework should

- Have clear objectives and a set timescale
- Allow the children to succeed
- Be manageable for everyone involved
- Be enjoyable and not too time consuming

If at any time as a parent you perceive that the homework demands are too much for your child, please discuss this with us. We, like you want your child to enjoy school and succeed in all they do. It is difficult to set clear indications regarding the time which

should be set aside for homework as in reality this will vary from one child to another. It is essential that sensible timings be used in order that children succeed and parents regard it as quality time with their children.

Individual needs of children

Homework should be appropriate for the differing needs of the children. Some of the more able children require homework which challenges them, whereas others may need work to reinforce work which has been covered in school. As we have ability sets in English and Maths, this allows the subject teachers to set appropriate homework and cater for individual needs. Special needs children may benefit from work that is different from that given to the rest of the group.

Responsibilities

The teacher will ensure that work set for homework is commensurate with the homework timetable.

Each child needs to be aware of the importance of homework and expectations of the school in completing the work within the time set.

All parents will be encouraged to support the school in its aims regarding homework.

Parents should try to provide a quiet place for their children to work either alone or with support and give them praise regularly.

Feedback and marking

Where work is done alongside parents, feedback is instantaneous. In cases when work is completed alone, children are given feedback as soon as possible through class discussion, tests as in tables and spellings or through individual comments from teaching staff.

Most pieces of homework are incorporated into the children's folders and exercise books.

Homework schedule

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| Reception/Early Years | <p>At this early stage, short activities of different kinds are given, such as: reading, letter sounds work, practising letter formation, number work and “special books”, in which pupils share what they have done at the weekend.</p> <p>The ‘share a skill ‘activities based on developing literacy, numeracy and scientific skills give parents and children an opportunity to borrow educational games on a short loan basis. Each Tuesday, parents and carers are invited to visit the EYFS area and together they can choose a game and a book, which needs to be returned the following week.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to record their evaluation of the game in the record book, as to whether it was enjoyable etc.</p> | | | | |
| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| YEAR ONE | | | Bug Club reading book Abacus maths game | Spellings – practice grapheme | Grapheme flashcards |
| | Owl words to be given throughout the week. Maths assessments cards to be given at various points throughout the term. | | | | |
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| YEAR TWO | Maths Gimme 5 (for the week) | | | Literacy – word and sentence work Maths – topic based activity | |
| | Home reading, Bug Club and Abacus activities ongoing throughout the week. | | | | |
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| YEAR THREE | Maths Gimme 5 Spellings | Maths Gimme 5 Reading comprehension task | Maths Gimme 5 | Maths Gimme 5 | Maths extended task |
| | Home reading, Bug Club and Abacus activities ongoing throughout the week. | | | | |
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| YEAR FOUR | Maths Gimme 5 Spellings Literacy Grammar 5 | Maths Gimme 5 | Maths Gimme 5 | Maths Gimme 5 | Maths Gimme 5 |
| | Half termly literacy projects to be allocated Home reading, Bug Club and Abacus activities ongoing throughout the week. | | | | |
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| YEAR FIVE | Maths Gimme 5 Week 2 – SPAG task | Maths Gimme 5 Spellings | Maths Gimme 5 | Maths Gimme 5 Week 1 – Big Write talk homework | Literacy extended task Maths extended task |
| | Home reading, Bug Club and Abacus activities ongoing throughout the week. | | | | |
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| YEAR SIX | Maths Gimme 5 Extended Reading task – Mrs Bailey | Maths Gimme 5 | Maths Gimme 5 | Maths Gimme 5 Extended maths task – Mrs Bailey | Reading homework task – Mr Garnett Extended maths task – Mr Garnett Spellings SPAG task |
| | Home reading, Bug Club and Abacus activities ongoing throughout the week. | | | | |