



Uplands Junior School

Homework Policy

April 2016

At Uplands Junior School, we believe that homework plays an important part in a child's education and have adopted a creative approach encompassing all areas of the curriculum. The benefit of completing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent learning can be achieved and learning behaviours encouraged. (See Teaching & Learning Policy)

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 and incorporate these outside interests.

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

Aims

Uplands' 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 learning behaviours for example: responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- To encourage children's creativity.
- 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 and engagement.
- 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.

Responsibilities

Role of the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher and Governing Body

- Frequently check compliance of the policy.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the policy every two years.
- Review the policy every two years 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.

Role of the Teacher/Subject Co-ordinator

- Plan and set up a regular programme of homework for pupils taking into account of whole school tasks.
- 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.
- Monitor homework regularly and make sure pupils are completing it.
- Mark homework and give general feedback to pupils.
- To update reading books on Bug Club.
- 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/sets
- 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 through the reward systems and certificates – sharing work in assembly.

Role of Parents/Carers

- Support their child in completing homework and encourage
- 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.
- To encourage the use of Bug Club and Mathletics at their discretion.

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.

Homework Tasks – Current practice

- Every term each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework through the creative homework timetable in their homework book.
- Every term, the school will inform parents about the main topics and units of work being covered through the termly curriculum letter.
- All pupils will have homework books in which they complete their homework.
- Every pupil will receive weekly spelling homework, asked to practise mental maths and complete reading journal activities.
- All children have unlimited access to Bug Club and Mathletics to use at their parents discretion.
- Every pupil will complete a creative homework activity linked to the yearly overview.
- Homework will be marked every two weeks and returned to the child in the homework book.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Year 6 Homework – During the Autumn Term Year 6 will complete the tasks set according to the creative homework timetable. During the Spring and Summer Term Year 6 will convert to specific revision tasks leading to their SAT assessments. Once these assessments have been completed they will return to the creative homework timetable.**

The table below shows expected homework. Daily reading is encouraged and tasks will be set in addition to the below activities.

Year Group	Homework	Maximum Time
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading –each night • Spellings or Tables – 5 minutes each day • Creative – 1 piece every two weeks • Reading journal activity 	5 minutes/night 25 minutes 30 minutes min
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading –each night • Spellings or Tables –5 minutes each day • Creative – 1 piece every two weeks • Reading journal activity 	5 minutes/night 25 minutes 30 minutes min
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading –each night • Spellings– 5 minutes each day • Creative – 1 piece every two weeks • Reading journal activity 	5 minutes/night 25 minutes 30 minutes min
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading – each night 	5 minutes/night

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spellings – 5 minutes each day • Creative – 1 piece every two weeks • Reading journal activity • Assessment revision (Spring/Summer Term) 	25 minutes 30 minutes min
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ICT and Homework

Children are welcomed to use a range of computing skills to complete their homework (unless a specific task is required). Use of the internet for research is encouraged and children will be reminded to follow safe internet practice.

To support children’s learning and engagement in Reading and Mathematics unlimited access to **Bug Club** and **Mathletics** are available. Every child in school has a personal password to access these sites. These are to be used at the discretion of parents and monitored by staff.

Absences

- If the child is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will not supply work for these periods as pupils should be well enough to undertake work. In some cases, there may be exceptions to this rule and the school has the right to decide whether this is acceptable or not.
- 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.

Pupils who fail to complete homework

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.

Homework Hub

For pupils who are finding it difficult to complete tasks or need extra support a weekly homework hub supported by the Senior Management Team. The homework hub provides tuition, resources, ICT support and encouragement across the curriculum. Revision support is also provided for any year 6 requiring it.

Both Bug Club and Mathletics will be available for children to access during homework hub.

Marking homework

Homework may be marked in a variety of ways according to the school’s marking policy. 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.

Pupils with SEND

- 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.

- 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.
- A balanced amount of the right type of homework will be set for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the parents and SEND Co-ordinator.

Pupil Premium

Building Belief – we will provide a culture across all levels where:

- Staff believe in all children and know their barriers to learning
- There are ‘no excuses’ made for performance, including homework tasks.
- Staff adopt a ‘solution-focused’ approach to overcoming barriers. Children are encouraged to use the homework hub to gain support and resources to complete their homework tasks in line with non-pupil premium children.
- Staff support children to develop mind sets towards learning (see pupil premium policy)

Equal Opportunities

At Uplands Junior School, 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.

This policy is reviewed every two years, although it may be amended as necessary throughout the year.

Review date

Signed by		
	Headteacher	Date:
_____		_____
	Chair of Governors	Date:
_____		_____

Next review date: April - 2018

