



The Sherwood School

Homework Policy

Our Mission Statement:

We are dedicated to providing the best possible education for every pupil in a safe, inclusive and stimulating environment. UNICEF's convention on the Rights of the Child is embedded within our ethos and curriculum and is valued and supported by our staff, children and families.



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Aims

Article 28 (right to education)

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

- ✓ to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- ✓ to develop each child's individual interests, talents and learning styles;
- ✓ for each child to develop a sense of pride and achievement in their accomplishments;
- ✓ to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- ✓ to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- ✓ to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- ✓ to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Rationale

We believe that homework is a beneficial tool for school and families to collaborate and support children's learning. We want to develop children's independence and believe that completing homework is a helpful way to achieve this.

Homework can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the importance of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in out-of-school clubs and activities that play an important part in the lives of our pupils, as stated in Article 31 of UNICEF's Rights Respecting Charter.

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture):

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

At The Sherwood, we believe in using evidence backed research to support our curriculum offer. The EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) has published research into the impact of homework for primary school aged children and we use this information to inform our approach. Homework focuses on practicing core skills, such as reading, writing and mathematics, times tables and curriculum-linked projects.

Types of Homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum and it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. We set a variety of homework activities including the following:

- ✓ Children from Years Reception to Year 6 are given reading books to take home to read with their parents or carers.
- ✓ Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils are given weekly spellings and mathematical tables as part of their homework.
- ✓ Children from Reception to Year 6 are given projects to complete based on either a class topic or a whole school initiative.
- ✓ Homework is marked, where required, according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.
- ✓ We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in different ways, while others require a specific approach.

Presentation of Homework

As the children move through the school, more will be expected of them as to the amount of time spent completing homework. For example, we expect children in Key Stage 1 to read at least three times a week and advise them to spread the learning of their spellings and times tables across the course of the week, whereas children in Upper Key Stage 2 are to read at least five times a week and spend some time learning their spellings and revising times tables across most evenings. Children are given a homework book to complete tasks in. Older pupils may be set additional tasks by their teachers on platforms such as Purple Mash.

Inclusion and Homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child and we adapt tasks to ensure all children can contribute positively. When setting homework for pupils with SEN, we refer to those pupils' SEN Support Plans or EHCPs. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The Role of Parents and Carers

All parents and carers are expected to encourage their child to complete their homework. We encourage parents and carers to be involved with their child's homework and to support them to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing any homework with their child before, during and after completion.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Our Senior Leadership Team are also on hand should you have any questions or concerns. Please also refer to our Home School Agreement for further information.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, we encourage children to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

Monitoring & Review

The SLT is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.