



Homework Policy

This policy was reviewed by: Jane Taylor
Adopted by the Governing Body in October 2021
It will be reviewed Autumn Term 2023

"For learning, smiling and remembering"

Avondale Community Primary School - Homework Policy

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Avondale Primary School is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward thinking and safe learning environment in which pupils are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling education.

At Avondale, we believe that homework plays an important part in education and the benefit of doing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent study can be achieved. Homework is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some support to parents beyond the school day. As such, we believe homework requires commitment by teachers, pupils and parents. Teachers at Avondale are required to set homework under this policy.

However, we also believe that homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the child's family. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, e.g. swimming, dancing, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc. Our aim is to create a healthy balance in family life. Therefore a week, will be allowed for the completion of many homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spellings and times tables and a structured approach to weekly homework is established. We will give careful consideration to ensuring homework is well-balanced across the school.

This Homework Policy was developed in consultation with staff members, parents/carers and pupils, and with the full agreement of the governing board.

This policy aims to:

- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of achievement;
- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school;
- Ensure teachers, parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and pupils.

The main purpose of homework is to:

- Encourage pupils to develop the skills, responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Give pupils further practise and a deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.
- Extend school learning through activities such as additional reading.
- Consolidate spellings of key words through inspiring and creative spelling word tasks, alongside regular 'spelling sentences'.
- Embed knowledge and support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Promote an effective home/school partnership and involve parents/carers in their child's learning.
- Maintain good channels of communication between home and school and keep parents/carers informed about the work their child is undertaking.
- Prepare Year 6 children for their next stage of education (secondary transfer).

2. OUR HOMEWORK PROGRAMME

Our homework programme will consist of:

Home Reading: Reading is at the heart of our school curriculum, and our homework programme. Helping children to read and developing 'reading for pleasure' is the single most important thing that

parents can do to help with their children's education. If possible, reading should be done every day. It is an excellent way to bring 'screen time' to a close and help settle children into a healthy, bedtime routine. Reading can also be linked to current school topics to support interest and understanding.

Reading Scheme Books:

EYFS and Key Stage 1

Each week, Reception and Key Stage 1 will receive two reading scheme books. These books build skills over time by reinforcing phonological knowledge, and introducing children to new sentence structures and vocabulary. Parents can worry that these books are not 'challenging', but the schemes are designed to reinforce and consolidate the learning that has taken place in class. Generally, scheme books are used until the end of Year 2, but please remember it is not a 'race' to finish the scheme. Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils are expected to read at least five times per week for approx. 10/15 mins. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to or read to their child. Please sign this record every time your child practises their reading. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 read on different days so please ensure your child brings their reading bag to school daily. The class teacher will inform you when your child's reading day is.

Accelerated Reader Books: In Key Stage 2 home reading is support through the use of Accelerated Reader, which aims to foster a love for reading. Students self-select a reader of their choice and can read this book in class, at home, or out and about in the community. Once they finish a book, the pupils take a short quiz in school on what they have read. Each quiz is written to ensure students have read the entire book or article. These reading quizzes support teachers in setting next step reading goals, monitoring pupils' continued progress, and personalise lesson plans. Pupils can return and change their book as often as they like. Key Stage 2 pupils are expected to read at least five times per week for approx. 15/20mins. Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be expected to take responsibility for their own reading record book and record daily when they have read. Parents/carers are asked to make a weekly annotation within this reading record book.

Library Books: In addition to reading scheme books, all children will bring home a library book. This will be a book that they have selected and that interests them. As these books may be more challenging, parents can share the reading or read to their children. These books are a great opportunity to discuss any new words and knowledge, so parents should discuss the content and meaning. Class teachers will inform parents when their child's library day is and books should be returned the following week.

MyMaths: MyMaths is a fully interactive, online mathematics learning solution and is used in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Activities will consolidate the learning that has taken place in class with a particular focus on children learning their times tables. It helps reinforce mathematical understanding through a variety of engaging activities, games and assessments. Pupils will be able to access the homework set by their teacher and get instant results by logging into the online student portal found on the school website. Class teachers will provide pupils with their own secure login details. MyMaths homework tasks will be set every Friday, and should be completed for the following Friday.

In addition, teachers may also signpost pupils to additional reinforcement activities e.g. TT Rockstars.

Spellings: Spelling is one of the essential components of successful writing. Being confident at spelling leads to confidence in all aspects of literacy. Teaching pupils the strategies, rules and concepts to grow their spelling and vocabulary knowledge benefits them in all aspects of their learning, as well as in their everyday life. Therefore spellings are an essential part of our homework programme.

Pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will receive spellings, every Friday. These spellings will link closely to the learning in class and may focus on a spelling rule or pattern, words from the National Curriculum 'word lists' and some subject-specific words linked to current topics. Pupils are asked to practise and

learn these spellings for a spelling review the following Friday. Teachers may also provide creative spelling word tasks to help consolidate and reinforce these spellings. Class teachers will keep parents/carers informed of their child's progress, and a record of your child's spelling review will be made in the back of their reading record book.

3. HOMEWORK ALLOCATION ACROSS THE SCHOOL

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

RECEPTION	<p>The main focus for homework in Reception is the reading programme.</p> <p>Reading homework in Reception includes practising –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. letter sounds (these will be stuck in home reading record book each week) 2. reading tricky words (these will be stuck in home reading record book each week) 3. home reading books <p>Once a week, pupils will bring home a library book for you to read and share together. This should be returned to school the following week.</p> <p>The expectation is that Reception pupils complete reading homework 5 times a week for at least 10mins</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wider reading and completion of activities from the school website should be encouraged as extension activities as parents wish.</i></p>
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Note: During the school holidays no homework will be provided.

KEY STAGE 1

YEAR 1	<p>Homework in Year 1 includes practising –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising home reading books, including letter sounds and tricky words (10/15 minute sessions 5 time a week) • Once a week, pupils will bring home a library book for you to read and share together. This should be returned to school the following week. • MyMaths activity – set every Friday on MyMaths portal, to be completed for the following Friday • Spellings – set every Friday, to be completed for the following Friday. Parents/pupils will be able to access the spelling homework set by the teacher by logging into the Purple Mash Blog (Class teachers will provide login details) <p style="text-align: center;">Wider reading and completion of activities from the school website should be encouraged as extension activities as parents wish.</p>
YEAR 2	<p>Homework in Year 2 includes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising home reading books, including letter sounds and tricky words (10/15 minute sessions 5 time a week) • Once a week, pupils will bring home a library book for you to read and share together. This should be returned to school the following week. • MyMaths activity – set every Friday on MyMaths portal, to be completed for the following Friday • Spellings – set every Friday, to be completed for the following Friday. Parents/pupils will be able to access the spelling homework set by the teacher by logging into the Purple Mash Blog (Class teachers will provide login details)

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KEY STAGE 2

YEAR 3	<p>Homework in Year 3 includes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising home reading book, (approx. 15/20 minute sessions 5 times a week) • Once a week, pupils will bring home a library book for you to read and share together. This should be returned to school the following week. • MyMaths activity – set every Friday on MyMaths portal, to be completed for the following Friday • Spellings – set every Friday, to be completed for the following Friday. Parents/pupils will be able to access the spelling homework set by the teacher by logging into the Purple Mash Blog (Class teachers will provide login details) <p>Wider reading and completion of activities from the school website should be encouraged as extension activities as parents wish.</p>
YEAR 4	<p>Homework in Year 4 includes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising home reading book, (approx. 15/20 minute sessions 5 times a week) • Once a week, pupils will bring home a library book for you to read and share together. This should be returned to school the following week. • MyMaths activity – set every Friday on MyMaths portal, to be completed for the following Friday • Spellings – set every Friday, to be completed for the following Friday. Parents/pupils will be able to access the spelling homework set by the teacher by logging into the Purple Mash Blog (Class teachers will provide login details) <p>Wider reading and completion of activities from the school website should be encouraged as extension activities as parents wish.</p>
YEAR 5	<p>Homework in Year 5 includes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising home reading book, (approx. 15/20 minute sessions 5 times a week) • Once a week, pupils will bring home a library book for you to read and share together. This should be returned to school the following week. • MyMaths activity – set every Friday on MyMaths portal, to be completed for the following Friday • Spellings – set every Friday, to be completed for the following Friday. Parents/pupils will be able to access the spelling homework set by the teacher by logging into Google Classrooms (Class teachers will provide login details) <p>Wider reading and completion of activities from the school website should be encouraged as extension activities as parents wish.</p>
YEAR 6	<p>Homework in Year 6 includes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising home reading book, (approx. 15/20 minute sessions 5 time a week) • Once a week, pupils will bring home a library book for you to read and share together. This should be returned to school the following week. • MyMaths activity – set every Friday on MyMaths portal, to be completed for the following Friday

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Completion of Homework:

To encourage pupils to engage regularly in our home reading programme we have reading rewards.

These consist of –

- Green reading texts sent home every week to congratulate pupils who have read five times and thanking parents for their continued support.
- Class reading rewards / prizes for pupils who read at home five times each week.
- Class reader of the term reward.

Children are expected to complete their reading/homework on time. In order to ensure this happens:

- Staff monitor the quantity and quality of homework on a weekly basis.
- Children in Year 5 and 6 who fail to complete their homework will be expected to complete it during break and/or lunchtime.
- If children regularly fail to complete their homework, then parents will be informed. Parents will initially receive a reading/homework text stating that their child has not completed their homework. After two consecutive texts parents will then receive a phone call from the class teacher to discuss a way forward. Finally, parents will be contacted by a member of SLT

Absences

- If a pupil is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, then they should spend the time recovering.
- If a child is absent due to covid reasons and is well enough to complete school work then online work will be set for the duration of the isolation.
- If a pupil is absent for a long period of time, e.g. with a broken arm, then we would encourage the parents to contact school so that we can provide either amendments to our face to face teaching offer, remote learning or a more personalised and blended approach as agreed by home and school.

Pupils with SEND

A balanced approach to homework will be adopted for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the pupil's parents and the SENCO. The school recognises that pupils with SEND may require specific tasks to be set, as outlined in their individual education plans.

Some pupils with SEND may benefit from differentiated tasks separate from homework received by other pupils, it is important that they also complete as much standard homework as possible.

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We would ask that if families do not have access to the internet or a device that they would contact school so that we can offer support and make alternative arrangements.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The headteacher and governing board are responsible for:

- Frequently checking the policy's compliance with statutory and good practice requirements.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing the policy every two years and making appropriate updates as required.
- Discussing with staff the extent to which this policy is being implemented.
- Meeting with parents as appropriate.
- Providing parents with information about homework.
- Informing new parents about the Homework Policy.
- displaying the policy on the school website

SLT are responsible for:

- Ensuring all members of staff are aware of the school's Homework Policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy within their department and reporting their findings back to the headteacher.
- Answering any queries that teaching staff have regarding this policy and the school's practices.
- Meeting with parents as appropriate.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Planning and setting up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Providing an explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensuring all homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Setting homework that is appropriate to pupils' abilities.
- Monitoring homework regularly and making sure pupils are completing it.
- Giving feedback to pupils.
- Keeping parents informed about the work their child is undertaking
- Communicating with parents/carers if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Setting homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensuring homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the need of pupils with disabilities are considered.
- Rewarding and praising pupils who regularly complete homework tasks.

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Supporting and encouraging their child with regards to completing homework.
- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Making sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Providing suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Praising their child and celebrating achievements with regards to their homework.
- Informing teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operating with the school to find a solution.
- Keeping the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively.
- Encouraging their child to discuss homework and feedback from teachers.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Taking responsibility for their own learning and submitting completed work in a timely manner.
- Having a positive approach towards homework.
- Putting the same effort into homework as class work.

- Making sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seeking clarification if required.
- Ensuring that they have everything they need to complete homework.
- Taking pride in their homework and performing to the best of their abilities.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the Assistant Headteacher.
The scheduled review date for this policy is Autumn 2023