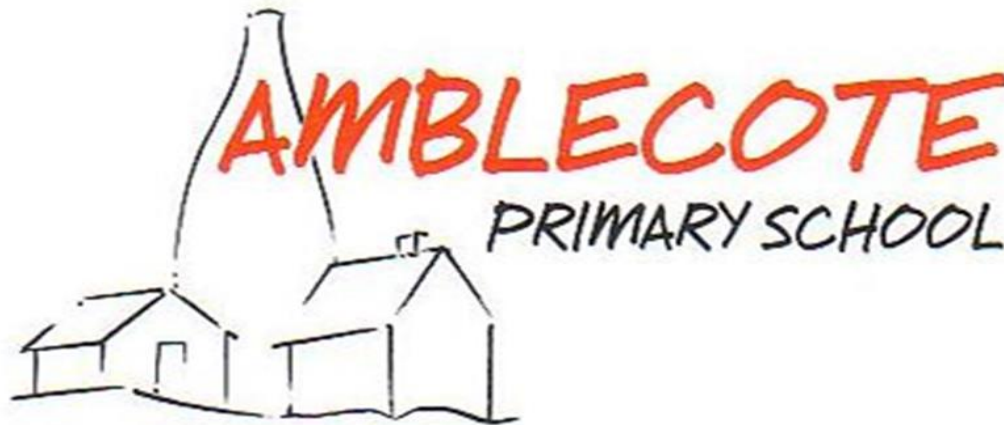


Amblecote Primary School



'At Amblecote we achieve because in our pupils we believe.'

Homework Policy

Responsibility for monitoring this policy: Head teacher & Governors


Review Annually

(or in response to changes in legislation/ DSCB operating procedures)

Updated October 2023

Review date September 2024

Proposed by the Headteacher..... Mrs J. Cook

Approved by Governing Body..... Mrs C. Roberts (Chair of Governors)

This policy outlines the expectations for homework at Amblecote Primary School, detailing what each year group can expect. It has been designed to enable opportunities for pre-teaching (revisiting previously learnt objectives in preparation for new objectives) and consolidation (revision of newly learnt objectives).

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework will be set weekly. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities set by teachers and supported by parents in order to further support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Why do we provide homework?

Homework is regarded as being a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. We see homework as an important way of establishing a successful links between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role 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 the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children.

Legislation and Guidelines

This policy adheres to the latest UK government legislation and guidelines, including but not limited to:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- The National Curriculum
- Department for Education (DfE) guidance on homework

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social developments
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- To supplement key aspects of the curriculum
- To provide additional educational experiences
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school, the amount of homework will increase.
- Teachers ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
- Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant.

Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

- Pupils are responsible for completing homework tasks on time and to the best of their abilities.
- They should seek clarification from teachers if they have any questions or concerns regarding their homework.
- Pupils should manage their time effectively and develop good study habits to ensure the completion of homework alongside other commitments.
- Pupils should ensure they collect their homework if they are away on the day set – spare copies will be available in their classroom.

Staff

- Teachers should set homework tasks that are appropriate, purposeful, and aligned with the curriculum.
- They should provide clear instructions and expectations for homework tasks.
- Teachers should provide timely feedback on completed homework, highlighting areas of improvement and recognising pupil's effort.
- Staff should monitor and record homework completion to identify patterns and intervene if necessary.

Parents

- Parents/ Carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, relevant resources, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.
- They should encourage and motivate their child to engage in homework activities.
- Parents should communicate with teachers if they have concerns or require additional support for their child's homework.

School Leadership

- School leaders should ensure that there is a consistent approach to homework across the school.
- They should provide training and support for staff in implementing effective homework practices.

Governors

- It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy.

Types of homework

Our main focus in setting homework is to improve basic skills for our pupils. We focus predominantly on the following:

1. Reading - this is fundamental skill to improve all areas of learning. We encourage parents to read daily with their children, and record this in their child's diary at least three times per week.
2. Spellings - Pupils are given new words each week and are asked to practise these in readiness for their test the following week. Parents and carers will be able to see how their child performed by checking the completed tests when they are returned home in their child's school diary.
3. Timetables- This is the building block for mathematical development and fluency. For identified children in Year 2 and children in Key Stage 2, they will be set timetable homework on TT Rockstars each week. This will be set on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of their times tables up to 12x12.
4. Maths homework will be given out on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday.
5. SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) homework will be given out for children in Years 5 & 6, on a Friday to be completed by the following Wednesday.

We ask parents / carers to let staff know if their child is struggling with the set homework so that staff can provide additional support. It is the expectation that all children will attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability. If pupils need support to access these activities, then they are invited to attend the weekly lunch-time homework club, run by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, where IT and stationery will be readily available. This will be available each Monday where pupils can have support from the phase leader, if required.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should contact the teacher who set the homework task.

The completion of homework will be monitored by teachers. If children do not complete their homework or return it by the set day, they will be given additional time and the expectation is that the task will be completed by the following day. Homework that is still not completed after this additional time will be completed during the school day.

For children in Years 5 and 6, who we are preparing for the demands of secondary school, and the increased homework expectations, if homework is not submitted on the required day, children will be asked to use their own time to complete the task during the school day.

If teachers notice a pattern in the non-completion of homework, parents will be contacted.

Consideration is always given in special circumstances.

Phase	Compulsory homework expectations
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading a minimum of 3 times per week. • Weekly phonics homework activities
Key Stage One	<p>Year 1 and Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading a minimum of 3 times per week. (Recorded in their reading diary, if they are to achieve their reading star towards their reading reward day). • Spellings: children will be tested weekly with the new spelling words being sent home a week in advance. • Maths and English homework set weekly on Education City, set on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday. <p>Year 2 children (when ready)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Times table practise – set weekly on TT Rockstars, set on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday.
Phase 3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading a minimum of 3 times per week. (Recorded in their reading diary, if they are to achieve their reading star towards their reading reward day). • Spellings will be set weekly on Spelling Shed and a copy of words placed in the children’s school diary. Children will be tested weekly. • Times table practise – set weekly on TT Rockstars, on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday. • Maths homework set on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday. <p>Year 4 – optional home learning project In the autumn term, children, if they chose to do so, will be able to complete a research project around a topic of their choice.</p>
Phase 5/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading a minimum of 3 times per week. (Recorded in their reading diary, if they are to achieve their reading star towards their reading reward day). • Spellings will be set weekly on Spelling Shed and a copy of words placed in the children’s school diary. Children will be tested weekly • Times table practise – set weekly on TT Rockstars table on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday. • Maths homework set on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday. • SPaG homework set on a Friday to be completed by the following Wednesday. <p>Caveat In addition to the homework expectations outlined above, where the teacher feels that there are areas of need, children may be provided with extra one-off pieces of work or booster packs. These could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Same Day’ consolidation tasks which support the learning that has taken place in school that day; this is designed to increase confidence and accuracy in preparation for the following lesson; this could be for any lesson. • Handwriting exercises e.g. Fine motor skill activities, letter formation or handwriting packs. • Reading comprehension tasks. • Packs of work to aid revision at specific times of year - Y6 booster packs.
Learning Cave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in the Learning Cave will be set their homework tasks on a Wednesday and due in the following Wednesday.

Pupils with special educational needs

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. If a child has special educational needs we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can access their homework task.

This policy will be reviewed every year or earlier if necessary.