



# ORRITOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT

## Homework Policy

### **Abstract**

This Policy was designed to outline the school's procedures in relation to Homework .  
It was devised in line with relevant documentation and stakeholder consultation.

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## **Definition**

At Orritor Primary School we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

## **Purpose**

At Orritor Primary School, homework is seen as important for various reasons.

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills and knowledge developed in the classroom.
- To inform parents of their child's understanding of work being done.
- To ensure parents are involved in their child's education.
- To develop a worthwhile and effective partnership between school and parents.
- To encourage pupils to develop the skills needed for independent learning and to prepare them for later life.

## **Range of Homework Activities**

A variety of tasks are used to meet planned learning objectives. These can include:

- Speaking and listening activities
- Reading
- Spelling and word investigations
- Book reviews
- Independent research
- Practical maths investigations
- Collecting items linked to a theme
- Skills practice across a range of areas
- Data collection
- Educational games

Homework, generally, will be set daily by staff. The nature and amount of work to be completed at home will depend on the age and ability of the child. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the progress of their academic development.

## **Organisation of Homework**

1. Homework will normally be given for Monday to Thursday evenings, but there are exceptions at certain times of the year which will be agreed on, in advance with teachers, by the school leadership.
2. There will be a written homeworking provided on Monday and Wednesday night based on Literacy and Numeracy in Primary 1 and Primary 2.
3. There will be written homework provided on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights based on Literacy and Numeracy in Primary 3 to Primary 7
4. Thursday night will be used as a 'learning homework' which will link to assessments on Friday from Primary 2 to Primary 7.
5. P3 – P7 pupils will be given homework diaries in which they should record the homework which is set each night.
6. The duration and type of homework will depend on the age of the child and his/her ability within the classroom situation.
7. Homework should reflect previous class work to enable pupils to practise skills and reinforce knowledge. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the progress of their academic development.
8. Parent – Teacher interviews provide good opportunities to discuss what is expected from a child and also what role the parent may play in this. It is also an opportunity for parents to provide feedback on how their child copes with the amount of homework given.
9. Parents should be involved in their child's homework. The level of assistance and intervention by a parent will depend on their child's ability and age.
10. Homework should be completed on time to a good standard and returned to the teacher who will ensure it is marked and feedback given.
11. Incomplete homework will be returned to a child with the expectation it will be completed in addition to new homework set. If this is not done, teachers can ask the child to complete it during break or lunchtime.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

At Orritor Primary School, we believe learning is a shared responsibility between pupils, parents and teachers. Therefore, we each have a part to play to ensure homework is done well.

### **Teachers' Responsibilities:**

- Tasks are provided which are suitably differentiated.
- Pupils and parents have a clear understanding of the task set for homework. Time should be spent explaining homework to pupils before it is sent home.
- Work is marked within two days of being set with positive and constructive feedback being given.
- To ensure the Principal is informed about concerns.

### **Pupils' Responsibilities:**

- Record accurately, in their homework diary, the daily homework set.
- Listen carefully to instructions given about homework in class.
- To ensure the appropriate books, sheets and materials are taken home.
- Remain focused on homework and complete work to a good standard.
- Completed homework should be placed in schoolbags and returned to school on time.

### **Parents' Responsibilities:**

- A quiet working environment is provided for a child to complete homework.
- To check homework notes to find out what tasks have been set.
- Ensure homework is supervised and the child remains on task.
- Assist with homework when necessary.
- Listen to reading and talk about what has been read.
- Discuss strategies which can be used in mental maths homework.
- With spellings, support children by orally asking these.
- Encourage children to persevere with tasks and to always give their best.
- Check over written homework to ensure it is completed to a good standard and presentation is neat.

## **Pupils Who Are Absent**

If a child is absent due to illness it is the policy of the school not to send homework home. The assumption would be that the child was too ill to work.

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what homework should be completed, how it should be marked and what sort of support is required to help the pupil. This will be done in consultation with the class teacher, Head of Key Stage and the Principal.

Teachers will not prepare classwork/homework for a child who is being withdrawn from school for a family holiday.

## **Queries About Homework**

If your child has a problem completing the homework or you have any questions, please contact the class teacher within school hours. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem the next day. Your support in this process is vital for children's success in developing self-study skills as they move on up through school.

## **Duration of Homework**

Homework should, by the end of Key Stage 2, take no longer than one hour. More guidance is given about homework in the table.

If a child has spent the maximum guidance time on homework and the parent makes the decision to stop homework, a note should be sent to the class teacher to inform them of this decision.

## General Homework Guidelines

<u>Class</u>	<u>Activities will include...</u>	<u>Homework Time (approximately per night)</u>
Primary 1	Reading – 4 nights per week Letter Sounds/High Frequency Words Written homework on Monday and Wednesday - <b>One short written homework in Numeracy and one in Literacy.</b>	15 minutes
Primary 2	Mental Maths Reading – 4 nights per week Spellings Written homework on Monday and Wednesday - <b>One short written homework in Numeracy and one in Literacy</b> Learning homework Thursday	20 minutes
Primary 3	Mental Maths Reading – 4 nights per week Spellings – 3 nights per week Written homework on Monday – Wednesday Learning homework Thursday	20 – 30 minutes
Primary 4	Mental Maths – 3 nights per week Reading – 4 nights per week Spellings – 3 nights per week Written homework on Monday – Wednesday Learning homework Thursday	30 – 40 minutes
Primary 5	Mental Maths – 3 nights per week Reading – 4 nights per week Spellings – 3 nights per week Written homework on Monday – Wednesday Learning homework Thursday	40 – 50 minutes
Primary 6	Mental Maths – 3 nights per week Reading – 4 nights per week Spellings – 3 nights per week Written homework on Monday – Wednesday Learning homework Thursday	45 minutes – 1 hour
Primary 7	Mental Maths – 3 nights per week Reading – 4 nights per week Spellings – 3 nights per week Written homework on Monday – Wednesday Learning homework Thursday	50 minutes – 1 hour

## Monitoring and Evaluation of the Homework Policy

In order to ensure that our Homework Policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning, the provision of homework will be regularly monitored. Samples of homework activities will be reviewed by the Principal as part of the school's self-evaluation process.

Parents will also be given opportunities to share their views with teachers at parent consultations and other occasions as appropriate.