



## Iceni Academy

### Homework Policy May 2016

#### **The purpose of homework**

By setting regular homework for pupils, we aim to:

- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work together
- encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare pupils at year 6 for the requirements of secondary school.

#### **Content and time allocation of homework**

Homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning, and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important the children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own. By the time children reach years 5 and 6 their homework programme will cover a wider range of tasks and curriculum content. Homework also provides an opportunity for parents to support and encourage children and to be involved in their learning.

Homework activities must be varied and cover all aspects of the curriculum. Activities might include:

- Finding out information
- Reading in preparation for lessons
- Making oral presentations
- Number games

Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours/week	Reading, spellings, other literacy work and numeracy, Learning Logs
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes a day	Reading, spellings, continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum,

## **Reading**

Regular reading is vital. Maintaining regular reading practice and listening to each other read is essential throughout school. Children should be encouraged to read for at least 10 minutes each night. This will be recorded in a Reading Record Book.

Children who have recorded reading 4 times a week will become "Reading Stars".

The reward for being a Reading Star is a full card of house points

## **Spellings**

Children will take home spellings or spelling related work on a weekly basis. They will be tested weekly. The number and complexity of spellings will increase with the ability and attainment of the individual child.

To support the National Curriculum classes will also give out the phase group word lists and spelling rule words weekly.

Class spellings are posted on the year group webpage termly. .

## **Learning Logs**

Homework for all years will include homework tasks which can be found termly in the learning logs.. These tasks are also published on the website. Children will be expected to research and collate information and present the information in the Learning Log . The activities will cover a broad range of the curriculum and may sometimes be practical. These logs are not marked but are monitored by peer evaluation during class time.

The reward for completing every task in a term will be a full card of house points.

## **Numeracy**

As part of the weekly homework the teacher may suggest a variety of activities and resources for the development of mathematical skills and concepts. The complexity and quantity will increase with the ability and attainment of the individual child. The children will also take home times tables or times tables related work on a weekly basis and will be tested weekly.

My Maths activities will also be set by class teachers regularly.

## **Termly Project**

Occasionally pupils may be given a project to work on with parents so that adults can be involved with the topics the children are focussing on in that term.

These projects and other homework tasks will be celebrated by being displayed around the school.

## **Special Educational Needs**

Children with special educational needs will be included within this policy but their homework will be designed to help them fulfil their individual needs and provide opportunities for them to succeed.

## **Setting the task**

Clear instructions will be given for each homework activity. The task set will usually complement work the children have done in school. If a child does not understand a task, parents should encourage their child to ask their teacher for further guidance.

Teachers will generally allow more than one night for homework to be completed and make it very clear when it is due to be returned.

## **Expectations**

Our expectation is that the work the children do at home is of the same standard that they produce in school. All work must be dated.

A homework club located in the lunchtime nurture room. is available to support children who are unable to complete their homework at home.

Reading with adult volunteers, Rotary Readers and school staff counts towards the homework expectations for Reading.

## **Planning, monitoring and evaluating homework**

Individual class teachers are responsible for setting and monitoring homework and for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parents/carers. The Headteacher will monitor consistently across the school and the governors will monitor and evaluate the success of the policy annually.

## **Homework communication**

Children will be given written notification of their spellings, learning logs and any other tasks connected with homework.

Teachers will make sure that their homework is given to the TA responsible for the website to be available termly.

## **Role of parents/carers**

To be effective this policy needs the support of parents in a variety of ways, including:

- Providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for homework to be completed.
- Showing that they value the work being done and providing support and explanations.
- Encourage and praising the children for their efforts.
- Becoming actively involved in homework activities when it is possible or necessary to do so.
- Checking that the work is returned to school on time.

## **Feedback for pupils, parents/carers and teachers**

Children should receive feedback as soon as possible in order to build on their experiences. Providing written feedback is time consuming and should be kept to a minimum. This can be done by using other strategies such as class discussion, group discussion, individual mentoring or comments.

Feedback for parents/carers or teachers may be provided by commenting in the Reading or Homework Diaries which come home daily.

## **Conclusion**

This policy will ensure that homework is manageable for everyone – child, parent/carer or teacher, and is educationally beneficial.

Policy dated: May 2016

To be reviewed: Bi-annually