

Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Believe and Achieve



Homework Policy

Frequency of review (unless there are changes to legislation)	Every 4 years
Reviewed by parents	June 2013
Reviewed by staff	March 2024
Approved by Governors	March 2024 (C&S Committee)
Date of next review	March 2028

HOMWORK POLICY STATEMENT

Our Vision – Believe and Achieve (Matthew 19)

At Welwyn St Mary's our school vision is 'Believe and Achieve' taken from St Matthew's gospel (chapter 19, verses 16-18). By this, we believe in the teaching of Jesus so that all members of our community may flourish and be the best version of themselves. We also believe in others to enable their success and build up self-belief so that all can achieve.

Intent

Learning at home is invaluable and an essential part of working in partnership to support your child's learning. Research shows when parents share in their child's learning through homework, progress and enjoyment is significantly raised.

Implementation

The responsibility of implementing the homework policy lies jointly with the teachers, the pupils and the parents.

Teachers:

- set homework that is appropriate
- take time in class to clarify what is expected and inform families
- set work regularly on the day it is expected
- ensure work is marked and give feedback as appropriate
- encourage work to be returned on time

Pupils:

- ensure appropriate work is taken home
- ensure work is completed in time
- ensure work is brought back to school on time
- ask if unsure what is expected, before any set deadlines

Parents:

- provide a suitable quiet area for child to work
- encourage children to do homework
- give support where needed
- ensure homework is returned on time
- listen to child reading and ask appropriate questions
- check and sign reading record books as required

Homework needs to be valued by us all.

Homework is viewed as essential for every year group but the amount and type of homework will vary throughout the school.

The following time allocations are for guidance only:

Year Group	Time allocation	Homework focus
Reception:	1.25 hrs a week	Mainly reading and Phonics with small tasks, such as bringing specific objects to school
Year 1:	1.25 hrs a week	Mainly reading and Phonics with small tasks, such as bringing specific objects to school Spellings Maths

Year 2:	2 hrs a week	Reading Spellings Mental maths
Years 3/4:	2.5 hrs a week	Reading Spellings Mental maths Tables
Years 5/6:	3 hrs a week	Reading Spellings Mental maths Tables

Reading at home should be on a daily basis and parents should enter comments about a pupil's reading in their reading record. The younger pupils will share books with parents and read aloud. The older pupils will read more independently but need to discuss what their books are about. Please note that older pupils still benefit from sharing books and reading aloud to parents and **all** pupils enjoy being read to by an adult.

With **spellings** children are encouraged to use the '**Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check**' method.

Throughout KS2, some investigative **topic** research or projects, related to the curriculum will be set.

Topic homework requires the use of research skills. Online resources and the local library will provide support and help. The library is also an excellent source for holiday reading.

Homework will be set in advance to allow pupils and parents to choose the most appropriate time for its completion. Usually, only work not finished during the school day will be expected to be completed by the following day and only in specific circumstances would this be required. A week is given for mental maths homework.

Learning and practice that takes place 'little and often' has more effect with reading, spellings and times tables and it is better than trying to learn all at once the night before a test.

The policy states the value we place on homework at Welwyn St Mary's School. However, we also value the importance of each child pursuing other interests outside school and we recognise that the fulfilment of these activities takes both time and commitment after school. We aim to ensure that, by working as a staff with parents and pupils, a successful balance will be achieved by making time for both homework and other activities in a child's busy life.

Impact

It is intended that the pupils of Welwyn St Mary's will benefit from regularly completing homework tasks in the following ways:

- Consolidating and developing pupils' learning and understanding of the curriculum
- Creating opportunities for families to talk and learn together
- Enriched and extended coverage of the curriculum
- Improvement in attitudes to learning
- Increased independence in learning
- The provision of additional study time to help the pupils achieve higher standards