

The Levett School



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Positivity | Determination | Reflection | Integrity

Homework Policy

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<i>Review date for Governors:</i>	3 rd May 2022
<i>Allocated Group/Person to Review:</i>	Hannah Buchanan
<i>Agreed frequency of Review, by allocated person:</i>	Every Year
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Doncaster
Council

Homework Policy

1. Rationale

There is mixed evidence as to the effectiveness of homework in the primary age setting. Supporters of homework argue it not only has academic benefits, but also helps youngsters develop important study and time management skills, and gives parents a chance to engage in their child's learning. For those opposed to homework, many feel that it creates unnecessary pressure on pupils for limited or disputed academic benefit, robs children of time to develop other life skills, through recreational and artistic activities and social interaction, and places pressure on family life.

In *Reforming Homework*, published in 2012 by Associate Professor Richard Walker and Professor Michael Horsley, the academics comment on the differing conclusions reached by the studies. 'Researchers have variously concluded that homework is beneficial (Cooper et al.) or harmful (various), that homework has no effects (Kohn), that it has complex effects or that the research is too sparse or too problematic to be able to justify the drawing of strong conclusions.'

With this in mind, and the often complex nature of the pupils who attend The Levett School, we view homework as a positive experience for some pupils. Learning is a lifelong process; it is not something which takes place purely during a school day. We are aware that learning experiences can be further enriched by not restricting education to the time and resources provided in any school. Pupils and parents benefit from sharing the learning processes. Tasks completed at home are also an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. The Levett School encourages pupils to develop as independent learners.

We acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a pupil's growth and development. We realise that such activities can present learning opportunities themselves and can play a positive role in raising a pupil's level of attainment. Homework should form part of a wide range of out-of-school activities that play an integral part in the lives of all pupils. We are well aware that pupils spend more time at home than at The Levett School. When encouraged by parents' pupils can develop their skills, interests and talents to the full.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic development.
- Help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- Promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each pupil's learning.
- Enable aspects of the curriculum to be explored in further depth.
- Provide educational experiences not possible in The Levett School.
- Consolidate, reinforce, extend and practice learning done in The Levett School and to allow pupils to practice skills taught in lessons.
- Help pupils develop good work habits for the future.

3. Types of Homework

A variety of types of homework may be set throughout The Levett School. These may include:

- Activity grid of a range of subject activities.
- Reading.
- SPAG or maths number fact activities.
- Research.
- Reinforcement of learning in school time.

- Practical activities – art and DT based projects.

4. Inclusive Homework

Homework activities will be differentiated, where appropriate, to ensure the needs of pupils are best met. Work produced by pupils is valued and can be celebrated through display, discussion and assemblies.

5. Parent/ Carer Role:

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and positive home learning experiences are key to development. Parents are invited and encouraged to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Explaining to their child that homework is valued and aids learning.

This can be by:

- Supporting the homework set.
- Providing a peaceful working space at home.
- Discussing the work that their child is doing.
- Not completing the work for their children as it is important that the teacher is aware of the child's own ability to complete the work.
- Parents are also encouraged to comment as appropriate on their child's homework be actively involved and make the experience pleasurable.
- If parents have any problems or questions about topics or tasks, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Should parents wish to make a complaint about The Levett School homework policy or the way it is implemented, they should follow The Levett School's complaints procedure.

5.1 Key Stage One and Two:

- Listening to their child read.
- Supporting their child to develop fast recall of number facts, SPAG and decoding skills and strategies.
- Learning times tables to x12 (*Under government guidelines children are expected to be able to recall all their tables by the end of Year 4*).
- To develop skills in real life contexts so pupils make links with their learning e.g. cooking to develop maths skills relating to weight, using time tables for trains and buses, telling the time, finding focussed sight words in books/ magazines/newspapers.
- Logging on to White Rose Maths, TT Rock Stars using the personal login details sent home. Here the pupils can access activities set by the class teacher at their own level.

5.2 Key Stage Three:

- Supporting their child to develop fast recall of number facts, SPAG and decoding skills and strategies.
- Learning times tables to x12.
- To develop skills in real life contexts so pupils make links with their learning.
- Logging on to White Rose Maths, TT Rock Stars using the personal login details sent home. Here the pupils can access activities set by the class teacher at their own level.
- Supporting their child to develop knowledge and awareness of local and national world issues, instilling how to be a good British citizen in preparing them for adult hood.

5.3 Improving key life skills

Social skills, evaluation skills, problem solving, managing feelings and working collaboratively are key life skills. Developing these skills improves pupil's motivation and approach to life and learning. Activities/ games/helping around the house can develop Maths and English skills and can fun too.

For example:

- Board games - Playing scrabble is a great way of learning to spell but also teaches turn taking, solving problems, losing!
- The game 'Articulate' develops children's vocabulary and speaking and listening skills.
- Card games are great for developing mental maths, independence, patience!
- Dominoes are a great way to learn number bonds.

6. Role of the Pupil:

- Complete their homework and hand it in on time.
- Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them.
- Contribute to pupil interviews and pupil questionnaires on homework for the school to monitor and evaluate.
- Make sure they get feedback for their homework.
- Complete homework using appropriate writing materials.

7. Sanctions

The Levett School recognises that for some pupils completing homework will be more than they can manage at home. This can be for a number of reasons and as a result pupils are not 'sanctioned' for not completing homework. In class rewards may be offered for any returned pieces of homework as we recognise that for many pupils this is a transitional time to Secondary Level education where the setting of homework is much more stringent.