



# Oakley Cross Primary School

*"We believe in respect and success for all"*

## Homework Policy

Date of policy: March 2020

Review date: March 2022

### Our School Values

We want to instil in our children the core values of:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Confidence
- Kindness
- Tolerance

These values support the way in which all members of our school community can live and work together in a supportive way. They support our school aims.

### School Aims (Written by staff)

**Article 3:** The best interests of the child must be top priority in all things that affect children.

At Oakley Cross we aim to provide a high quality curriculum, underpinned by strong teaching and learning and encourage every child to:

- **R**espect themselves, others and the environment
- **E**xpress their needs and feelings and recognise the needs of those around them
- **S**ucceed and reach their full potential by developing a positive work ethic and through high expectation and aspiration
- **P**ersevere when challenged, demonstrating resilience
- **E**nrich their lives through learning and seizing every opportunity to try new experiences
- **C**ontribute fully to school life and the wider community by developing confidence, self-esteem and independence
- **T**olerate others, embrace and celebrate difference and resolve problems appropriately

### School Aims (Written by students)

**Article 13:** Every child must be free to say what they think.

The children of Oakley Cross expect the following aims to be supported by all Duty Bearers.

- **R**espect our right to be safe
- **E**veryone has the right to an education
- **S**pend time listening to children
- **P**rotect our environment so it is clean and safe
- **E**xercise is key for a healthy body and mind
- **C**are for us like a family
- **T**rain all new Duty Bearers

At Oakley Cross we believe homework is a key aspect of learning. Homework helps children improve important skills. We believe that homework is a valuable opportunity for children to share with their parents/ carers things they have been doing at school.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Through our homework policy we aim to:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- help children develop good work habits for the future.

Homework will focus particularly on developing key skills in Geography, History, Science, Spellings and Reading. We believe reading is a key aspect of developing a child's learning. We value parents and carers reading with and to their children because it allows them to enjoy texts they might not be able to read alone, therefore improving many key skills which enable a child to access the wider curriculum.

To ensure children are engaged in homework, all homework set is based on current learning in either Geography, History or Science. Tasks are project based and children are not expected to return homework weekly. This is to encourage children to further deepen their learning in a specific subject. We also feel this is the perfect opportunity for parents and children to work together.

Early reading skills are taught through systematic synthetic phonics supplemented with Jolly Phonics resources as well as games and ICT programmes. As a school we aim to enthuse children as readers and offer reading materials from a number of well-known schemes; Oxford Reading Tree, Code and Project X to name a few. We do, however, encourage children to choose books for themselves and recognise self-chosen reading material is of equal importance to school reading scheme books. Children may also develop their reading skills using online programmes such as Lexia and Fiction Express. Please speak to class teachers for more information on this.

We use a progressive spelling programme throughout school to support spelling skills, related to the New National Curriculum year group expectations. Children will bring spellings home weekly and will be tested the following week in school.

Any opportunity to practice times tables will support children with their maths work. Children may access Times Tables Rockstars at home. Please speak to class teachers for more information on this.

It is also valuable to develop skills in real life and topic based contexts so children make links with their learning, e.g. cooking to develop maths skills relating to weight, writing diary entries in role, making objects from the past, artwork. Homework will develop self-directed learning skills by giving children a choice of which tasks to complete. It will also encourage parent/carers-child collaboration.

### **Improving key life skills**

Social skills, evaluation skills, problem solving, managing feelings and working collaboratively are key life skills. Developing key life skills improves children's motivation and approach to life and learning. Working together as a team, sharing and communicating feelings develops a confident child who has no fear of getting things wrong or having a go! Activities, games and helping around the house can develop maths and English skills but also vital life skills and are fun too! For example:

- Board games - Playing scrabble is a great way of learning to spell but also teaches turn taking, solving problems, losing!
- Card games are great for developing mental maths, independence and patience!
- Dominoes are a great way to learn number bonds.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governing Body will:

- Have responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

The Headteacher will:

- Promote this policy by raising the status and importance of homework
- Ensure that homework is built into teachers planning
- Provide supportive guidance for parents
- Keep up to date with new developments with regards to homework
- Monitor and evaluate this policy

Teachers will:

- Integrate homework into their planning
- Set interesting tasks and activities (often related to topics)
- Set homework appropriate for each child
- Explain when, what and how the work is done so that each child clearly understands
- Provide opportunities for sharing of homework tasks in class and provide feedback

Parents/ carers are asked to:

- Support the homework set
- Read with your child and make a note in the reading record book.
- Support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed.
- Be actively involved in the homework of your child.
- Contact the class teacher/ school if you are not sure of some aspect of the homework or your child is experiencing difficulty doing it

Children are asked to:

- 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
- Try their best at all homework activities

## **Amount of homework**

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week on home activities, which includes reading with a parent. We encourage children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately one

and a half hours on homework type activities per week, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately two hours a week.

Homework is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning. For example, whereas a Maths task would be marked according to the school marking policy a topic research task may be shared in the lesson or used as part of a group activity. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

### **Equal Opportunities and Additional Needs**

Homework activities will be differentiated, where appropriate, to ensure the needs of Pupils are best met. We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

### **Use of ICT**

Your child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet. The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning.

### **What will happen if children don't complete their homework?**

If a child has difficulty with the work, then we would expect them to ask for support from the class teacher before the due date to ensure they are able to complete the work, or alternative work can be given. This is useful information as it informs the teacher about the independent capabilities of the child.

The expectation is that children will complete their homework. However, if for any reason children are unable to complete their homework, parents or carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day that the homework was due to be returned to school. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. There may be occasions where the child will miss some playtime or lunchtime, if they have not completed homework.