

At St Dennis Primary Academy, we are passionate about ensuring our curriculum is designed to broaden horizons. We intend to provide a wealth of opportunities to engage and motivate our children so that by the time they leave, they have the greatest number of choices and options open to them.

We want our pupils to have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives.

For all pupils, regular reading is a main activity as is the learning of letter sounds and spellings.

This Homework Policy was developed in consultation with staff members, parents and pupils, and with the full agreement of the governing board.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regards to homework.
- Ensure that parents understand what is expected of their child.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Embed knowledge and support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning, and to keep them informed about the work their child is undertaking.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Extend learning beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practise and a deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2019) 'Ways to reduce workload in your school(s)'
- Ofsted (2019) 'School inspection handbook'
- Ofsted (2019) 'School inspection handbook – section 8'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Assessment Policy
- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Behaviour and Relational Policy

Roles and responsibilities

Teachers are responsible for:

- Planning and setting up a programme of homework for pupils.
- Providing an explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensuring all homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Setting homework that is appropriate to their year group.
- Providing parents with information about homework during the initial 'meet the teacher meeting'.
- Being available to parents and pupils for a discussion about homework.
- Ensuring homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are considered.
- Appropriate alternatives may be provided that are more accessible and achievable.
- Rewarding quality work and praising pupils who regularly complete homework by issuing certificates and publishing examples on the school's Facebook page or celebrating success on class newsletters.

Parents are responsible for:

- Supporting and encouraging their child with regards to completing homework.
- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Reminding their child to complete any homework to a high standard and on time.
- Providing suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Praising their child and celebrating achievements with regards to their homework.
- Keeping the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively.
- For optional topic-based home learning challenges, talking with their child about the tasks they might complete.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Taking responsibility for their own learning and submitting completed work in a timely manner.
- Making sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seeking clarification if required.
- Ensuring that they have everything they need to complete homework and returning to school all books/stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Taking pride in the presentation and content of their homework and performing to the best of their abilities.

Our approach to homework

The school understands that setting, marking and providing feedback on homework is a large contributor to the workload of teachers; therefore, the Senior Leadership Team and teachers ensure that homework only takes place to positively impact pupils' progress. Teachers ask themselves 'Why am I setting this homework?' and 'how will this homework be useful to the pupil?'. If the answers to these questions do not reflect a positive impact on pupils' learning, teachers use their professional judgement and decide whether the homework is necessary.

- Teachers explain the school's approach to homework to parents at the 'Meet the Teacher meeting' in September.
- Every 1/2 term, each year group is informed of what is expected of them with regards to the optional topic challenges. These challenges reflect core skills from the wider curriculum.
- Teachers may occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they deem it beneficial.

The table below shows expected homework.

Tasks may be set in addition to the below activities.

Year Group	Phonics/Reading	Additional or Optional Homework	Guidance of time
Reception	Daily reading Weekly library book RWI video links	Home learning suggested when relevant on Tapestry	10 minutes daily reading
Year 1	Daily reading Weekly library book RWI weekly spellings RWI video links	Topic Challenge (see school planner for details)	10 minutes daily reading Practise spellings
Year 2	Daily reading Weekly library book RWI weekly spellings RWI video links	Topic Challenge (see school planner for details) Practise 2-, 5- and 10-times tables	10 minutes daily reading Practise spellings
Year 3	Daily reading Weekly library book Weekly spellings	Topic Challenge (see school planner for details) Practise 3-, 4- and 8-times tables	10 minutes daily reading Practise spellings

Year 4	Daily reading Weekly library book Weekly spellings	Topic Challenge (see school planner for details) Practise all times tables	10 minutes daily reading Practise spellings
Year 5	Daily reading Weekly library book Weekly spellings	Topic Challenge (see school planner for details)	15 minutes daily reading Practise spellings
Year 6	Daily reading Weekly library book Weekly spellings	Topic Challenge (see school planner for details)	15 minutes daily reading Practise spellings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling quizzes will be on a Friday and spellings can be found in the school planner • Optional cross-curricular topic challenges will be printed in the school planner (these will be celebrated in class) 			

Monitoring and review

The Senior Leadership Team will periodically check a sample of homework tasks and discuss with teachers and pupils to determine if this policy is being successfully implemented. This policy is reviewed every three years by the Senior Leadership Team.

Person responsible for policy: Mrs R Nash (Deputy Headteacher)

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