



Sleights Church of England
(Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Homework Policy

September 2018

Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed
through our Christian values
perseverance, respect and trust.

This policy intends to outline the policy and procedure for setting homework at Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.

In our Church school, our vision is to “work together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed”. This policy intends to outline how our whole school community lives this out in relation to homework.

The key aspects of this policy were established through “working together”, as it has been written through consultation with families, children and teaching staff. We believe that homework supports the partnership between home and school to reinforce learning, supporting children to flourish and succeed.

Our Christian Values of are firmly rooted in this policy.

Christian Value	How is this value lived out in our homework policy?
perseverance	<p><i>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)</i> Our school community encourages all children to push on and persevere, even when things get difficult. For homework, we support children to persevere and “keep going” in relation to applying their taught school work to another context at home.</p>
respect	<p><i>So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12)</i> School and home relationships are built on effective partnerships. Our approach to homework is that it is a “lap of honour”. With this in mind, our homework policy respects the fact that families should not be teaching content in order for a child to complete homework. We also respect and value family backgrounds, so offer clubs for children to complete tasks at school, as well as have the time allowed to complete homework encompassing both weekends and weeknights.</p>
trust	<p><i>My God is my strength in whom I trust (Psalm 18:2)</i> We rely on feedback from children and families in relation to homework. We value this feedback. In this policy, expectations in relation to tasks and time spent on homework are outlined. Trust and open dialogue with families is well established, so that where families and children feel a set task does not match the set expectations, this is quickly rectified.</p>

Rationale

At Sleights, homework is defined as activities that children carry out at home, either independently or with their parent or carer.

The intention of setting homework is to extend and support learning through reinforcement, revision and practise, particularly in English and Maths ‘basic’ skills.

It provides staff, parents and children with an opportunity to work in partnership, consequently encouraging positive attitudes to learning among the children.

This policy seeks to ensure that all participants; parents, pupils and staff are clear about our expectations.

Younger children need parents to do homework with them if they are to benefit from it, but as children progress through the school, we expect children to complete homework by themselves.

With older children, the parents’ role is to ensure that it is completed; encourage, praise and maybe prompt if they get stuck. Parents are not expected to teach new skills. If a child is finding a task too difficult, we would suggest that it is left, and contact is made with the teacher so that further support can be given at school.

The activities will generally follow on from what has been taught at school, and will not contain new material; children should be practising skills that they have already mastered during the school day (a ‘lap of honour’).

We acknowledge that young people may be engaged in a number of out of school activities such as learning an instrument, playing sport and socialising with friends and family. We believe, therefore, that it is important to ensure that the demands of homework are reasonable and children benefit from the tasks.

Supporting homework

An after school club will be provided for children to complete their homework. Support and guidance will be on hand during this session.

Educating children is a partnership between home and school. Therefore, the support of families for all homework tasks is essential.

Guidelines

The purposes of homework will change as children get older and the amount of time we expect them to spend on tasks will increase.

Homework works best when it is done at a regular time. At Sleights, homework (including spellings) will be handed out on a **Thursday** and must be completed by **Tuesday**. Checks will be made on Tuesdays and spelling tests completed.

'Little and often' is much more effective than one big session, especially when children are tired after a busy day at school or following after-school clubs.

Homework expectations

Our main expectation is that homework is valued and completed.

Each week children are expected to complete reading, spelling and maths tasks (as set out below). The tasks have been planned to offer activities that increase in length and difficulty as children move through school.

Details of individual activities will be provided by teachers when work is set on a Thursday, but as a guide we expect the following to effectively support learning at home:

Homework expectations - Reading

The importance of reading for success at school (and later life) cannot be underestimated. Reading records play an essential role in communicating a child's progress in reading. We regularly monitor and check the number of times a child has read. We offer whole class and individual rewards to children for reading regularly. Please support your child to reach these rewards.

Children need to be involved in reading **every** day from an early age. There are two basic skills that need visiting every time children read:

- Decoding (knowing what the words say)
- Comprehension (knowing what the words mean)

To support reading, we expect:

Year Group	Reading Homework Activity	When will reading books be changed?
Explorers and Pioneers (Early Years)	Share and enjoy a book with an adult for ten minutes each day.	
Adventurers (Key Stage One)	Share and enjoy a book with an adult for ten minutes each day, but include discussions about characters, facts, events, endings etc. and ask questions to see how well the child has understood.	
Discoverers (Lower Key Stage Two)	As above, but increasing the volume of questions and discussions and time spent reading.	
Leaders (Upper Key Stage Two)	As above, but comprehension tasks may also be given during the year. These will involve reading a short text (given) and answering related questions.	

Homework expectations - spelling

Across school, spellings will be handed out on a **Thursday** and tested on a **Tuesday**. In each class, the children will be taught a rule and given a number of words relating to this. Children will explore the rule and words in lesson, but also be expected to learn and practise the words/rule at home.

Each week, children will bring home:

- A spelling rule/pattern
- A number of words to learn at home that include the spelling pattern (increasing in amount depending on age)
- The words to learn in a sentence (to help the children understand what the word means)
- Depending on their age, instructions for finding more words with the same pattern in their reading books etc.

Please support children to learn their spellings. There are lots of ways to do this and they can be really fun!

In their Tuesday spelling tests, children will also be given a small number of words (not tested) that include the same spelling rule taught throughout the week. This is designed to support them apply what they have learnt to unknown words.

Year Group	Spelling Homework Activity
Explorers and Pioneers (Early Years)	Children will be given word walls and tricky words to practise and read at home (no spelling test)
Adventurers (Key Stage One)	Five words (in a sentence) with a given spelling rule taught during phonics sessions.
Discoverers (Lower Key Stage Two)	Five words (in a sentence) with a given spelling rule. Children will also be asked to find and share five more words with the same spelling pattern.
Leaders (Upper Key Stage Two)	Eight words (in a sentence) with a given spelling rule. Children will also be asked to find and share five more words with the same spelling pattern.

Homework expectations - maths

Children use the online tool 'Sumdog' for their homework. On the programme, children have their own character and are rewarded with coins and prizes for completing homework tasks. Opportunities for children who do not have access to the internet at home will be provided in school.

Questions are answered quickly in relatively short spaces of time (e.g. one game played in a few minutes can mean 20 questions are answered)

The questions set for the children will link to a particular focus in class, or basic maths skills.

Year Group	Maths Homework Activity
Explorers and Pioneers (Early Years)	Share a maths task on Tapestry
Adventurers (Key Stage One)	Between 50 – 100 questions will be asked, increasing during the school year.
Discoverers (Lower Key Stage Two)	Between 100 – 150 questions will be asked, increasing during the school year.
Leaders (Upper Key Stage Two)	Between 150 – 200 questions will be asked, increasing during the school year.

Addressing homework that is not completed

If homework is not completed and where a reason has not been given by a parent, or family member, children will be expected to complete unfinished homework during lunchtime play.

Homework expectations summary

Year Group	Reading Homework Activity	Spelling Homework Activity	Maths Homework Activity
Explorers and Pioneers (Early Years)	Share and enjoy a book with an adult for ten minutes each day.	Children will be given word walls and tricky words to practise and read at home (no spelling test)	Complete a maths task and share it on Tapestry
Adventurers (Key Stage One)	Share and enjoy a book with an adult for ten minutes each day, but include discussions about characters, facts, events, endings etc. and ask questions to see how well the child has understood.	Five words (in a sentence) with a given spelling rule taught during phonics sessions.	Between 50 – 100 questions will be asked, increasing during the school year.
Discoverers (Lower Key Stage Two)	As above, but increasing the volume of questions and discussions and time spent reading.	Five words (in a sentence) with a given spelling rule. Children will also be asked to find and share five more words with the same spelling pattern.	Between 100 – 150 questions will be asked, increasing during the school year.
Leaders (Upper Key Stage Two)	As above, but comprehension tasks may also be given during the year. These will involve reading a short text (given) and answering related questions.	Eight words (in a sentence) with a given spelling rule. Children will also be asked to find and share five more words with the same spelling pattern.	Between 150 – 200 questions will be asked, increasing during the school year.

Approximate time spent on homework each week:

Adventurers (Key Stage One)	20 - 25 minutes
Discoverers (Lower Key Stage Two)	40 - 45 minutes
Leaders (Upper Key Stage Two)	60 minutes

If the homework set exceeds the time above by a significant amount, please do speak to your child's class teacher.