ACE Learning



Homework Policy

Date of Ratification	**Autumn 2020**
Date for Review	**Autumn 2023**

INTRODUCTION

This policy document is a statement of the aims, purposes and strategies for the provision of homework for all children at an ACE Academy.

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Research clearly shows that homework has important effects on all children's achievements. It is important to all stages of a child's education, extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect.

THE PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK IS TO…

- develop an effective partnership between the academy, parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of our academy:
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding especially in literacy and numeracy
- extend academy learning, for example through additional reading
- exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home
- encourage children as they become older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own and prepare them for the requirements of secondary academy.

THE HOMEWORK PROGRAMME

All children throughout the academy will be set activities to do at home. The type of activities set in terms of subject, content and time expectations will be dependent upon a child's age. The homework schedule will gradually increase in its demands as a child gets older. For children in Key Stage 1, homework will largely consist of regular reading with parents and carers and short activities such as learning spellings, and number facts. It is important that all these activities are completed by the child, together with the parent/carer. These homework activities offer a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practice key skills in a supportive environment.

As children progress through Key Stage 2, the main focus will continue to be placed upon literacy and numeracy, but other subjects and more varied activities will be added to the schedule. For instance, children in Key Stage 2 will be set more substantial numeracy activities, more challenging literacy activities (e.g. book reviews) and information research work (e.g. for class topics).

The time to be spent on homework activities is clearly outlined in the '*scheduling*' section of this policy. In Key Stage 2 during testing time in May and June, the homework schedule is amended.

We do not normally set formal homework tasks during holiday time. However, we may set a holiday challenge and we hope that children will continue to read as much as possible. In the lead up to KS2 SATs teachers may set additional holiday tasks/revision.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Children with Special Educational Needs will often be given the same homework as the rest of their class but they will not be expected to produce such detailed, in-depth work as others.

SCHEDULING

The table below outlines the weekly homework schedule for each year group.

Years	Time	Content
R		• Sharing of books encouraged

		• When appropriate, a short task/game will be sent home (e.g. phonics, maths patterns, handwriting pattern practice)
1&2	1 hour per week	• *Daily reading; 10-20 minutes to parent/carer • spellings • literacy and/or topic based work (e.g. handwriting and tasks/word games/collecting information) • Big Talk • number work (e.g. learning number bonds, number games)
3&4	1.5 hours per week	• *Daily reading - 20 minutes to parent/carer or independently • Spellings/vocabulary work • Big Talk • literacy task (e.g. practising punctuation, book reviews, factual research, reading record comments) • number work (learning number facts, number games) or investigation, reinforcement exercises) • topic work (e.g. researching the life of a famous person)
5&6	2.5 hours Per week	• Daily reading - 20 minutes to parent/carer or independently - child to write a comment in record book. • spellings/collecting vocabulary/exploring spelling • literacy work (e.g. extended book reviews, research, written assignments, preparing oral presentations, reading in preparation for lessons, comprehension task) • number work (e.g. learning number facts, mental arithmetic practice) or • Maths questions (reinforcement exercise) • Big Talk • topic assignments (e.g. independent research into a chosen aspect of a class topic, a teacher given topic to research)
*NB	We recommend that all children should read daily. This can be done as part of homework (ie factual research) or as reading for pleasure. Guidelines for parents to help them listening to their child read at home are available to encourage this to happen.	

The weekly homework schedule will be generally set on a Friday and will be clearly set out in the child's Homework Diary. The schedule will either take the form of a printed out programme or children write their homework schedule into the diary. In either format, the day for homework to be completed by will be clearly identified. The homework dates will be spread throughout the week and there will be a set date for spelling tests. This will ensure that the schedule is manageable.

The following are examples of typical homework programme schedules for children in year 2 and year 4.

Year 2		Year 4
Homework Programme		***Homework Programme***
• Daily reading • Spelling activity • Maths activity (Wednesday) • Big Talk		• Daily reading • Spelling task • Book review on book of own choice • Maths activity • Times table practice • Find out the names of Henry VIII wives • Big Talk

In addition to this homework schedule, children, at times, may have to bring unfinished class work home to complete if a class task has not been completed within the given time.

Also, there may be times when children are asked to work on an extra small task at home to prepare for the following day.

FEEDBACK

Children will receive feedback from teachers on their homework assignments as soon as possible. This may be verbal to individuals, groups or through class work (for example class discussion or feedback on work of which the homework assignment is a part) or through tests, e.g. tables and spellings,

ROLE OF PARENTS AND CARERS IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Parents/carers play an exceedingly important role in encouraging and supporting children with their homework assignments.

In particular, the academy requests the parent/carers:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework - alone or, more often for younger children, together with an adult.
- make it clear to the children that they value homework and support the academy in explaining how it can help their learning.
- encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework (but not to do homework for them!)
- help children to access necessary resources.

The scheduling section of this policy details the amount of time to be spent on homework. It is hoped that activities should not vastly exceed this timing. If your child is spending much longer on homework, please let the class teacher know. Also, if your child has been working on the homework assignment for the required time and has not completed the task, it is perfectly acceptable to leave the homework unfinished with a short note to explain why.

Teachers do welcome feedback on the homework assignments. For example, how well a child did the activities and whether he/she found the activities interesting/too easy/too hard, etc.

COMPLIANCE

It is expected that all children should complete their homework tasks on time and to the best of his/her ability. Where children are unable to complete the tasks at home, the school will

endeavour to find opportunities to complete it during the school day e.g. playtime and lunchtime.

MONITORING/REVIEWING ARRANGMENETS

It is the class teacher's responsibility to set the weekly homework schedule. The Senior Leadership team are responsible for co-ordinating, monitoring and reviewing this homework policy. The efficiency and effectiveness of this homework policy will be monitored and evaluated each year. Homework diaries and assignments will be checked.