



## STANTON DREW PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

### 1. Rationale:

This policy responds to the national requirement on schools to ensure that all homework set has a demonstrably positive impact on children's learning. Homework is a key feature of the close collaboration between school and parents in this small village school.

### 2. Purpose and Aims:

The school believes that homework can be an effective tool in helping to:

- Raise children's level of attainment
- Consolidate and reinforce key skills, particularly in maths and English
- Develop independence, perseverance, initiative and self-discipline, in accordance with the Federation's 'Learning without Limits' principles.
- Improve personal organisation, time management and presentation skills
- Prepare children in Upper Juniors for the demands and expectations of High School
- Develop effective partnership working between the school and parents in the development of children's learning

The school recognises that children need time to rest and to take part in other activities when not in school and that homework should not place unreasonable demands on children or their families. However, a key feature of the school's culture and ethos is as a kind of 'extended family', with a high level of parental involvement in a range of areas. Homework is an important part of this and as such, there is an expectation that children in every year group will continue their learning at home, with the support of parents.

### 3. Expectations of Children / Parents:

Children will be set the following homework and expected to complete it by the required deadline. It is expected that parents will support their children by providing a suitable space and time for HW, reminding children if necessary, and taking part in shared reading and other paired activities. However, it is important that adults do not complete the children's work for them or give them too much help, as this is counter-productive.

#### EYFS (Reception):

1. Sharing books with an adult daily
2. Reading the school scheme books but also being read to from picture books and other text types
3. Learning letter names and sounds
4. Practising letter and number recognition and formation

#### KS1 (Y1/Y2):

1. Reading daily
2. Investigating spelling patterns and learning key words
3. Number work – independent exercises to consolidate work in class

In addition to the above, children in Class 1 (YR/Y1/Y2) will also take part in home-school activities such as the cookery bag. Opportunities for class presentations (show and tell or book and tell with parents) will also be provided.

#### KS2 (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6):

1. Reading daily and recording in reading diary
2. Spelling activities – consolidation of work in class, applying rules and patterns and learned words
3. Learning Logs – independent topic work to demonstrate a range of learning skills
4. Learning Times tables for challenge tests
5. Class Presentations
6. Revision / Practice tasks in preparation for SATs tests (Y6)

Maths and English exercises are not given as part of regular homework in KS2 as these have not proved to be very effective in helping children's learning. However, learning logs will contain many elements of key skills such as reading, writing and problem-solving.

#### **4. Expectations of the School:**

- a. All homework will be marked, with useful and meaningful feedback to help children improve
- b. The deadlines for every piece of homework will be made clear to children and parents
- c. Where possible, routines will be established e.g. a regular deadline day. This may vary by Y5/6 to help them prepare for the more varied deadlines at High School

#### **5. Targeted and Additional Homework:**

##### **a. Optional HW to assist children in meeting targets**

Where children are having difficulty in meeting their learning objectives or are struggling with a particular area of work, targeted HW may be set in consultation with the child and parents. This HW is **not in any way** a punishment and will be set instead of other HW tasks, as agreed by all parties. If this work involves maths methods that are unfamiliar to parents, clear explanation and examples will be provided.

##### **b. Compulsory additional HW**

Where children do not make a reasonable effort to meet the requirements of lessons, they may be asked to complete the work in their own time, either at break time or at home.

#### **6. Enforcement:**

Apart from the HW as described in section 5(a), all HW is compulsory and must be completed by the deadline set. Sanctions will be applied for late or no HW, in accordance with the school's behaviour management system. If there is a good reason why the child was unable to complete the homework, parents must explain this in writing and an extension will be given.

#### **7. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- a) Learning Logs will clearly identify the skills demonstrated across a range of curriculum areas. Feedback will include suggestions for the next skills to be covered, where there are gaps.
- b) Reading records will be checked weekly and feedback will include suggestions for alternative texts or different levels as appropriate. Reading progress is tracked regularly and where there is slow progress, additional reading objectives may be set.
- c) Times Tables are tested weekly and progress is tracked on the challenge ladder. Smaller increments will be introduced where children are having difficulty moving up the ladder.
- d) Phonics, handwriting and spelling are assessed regularly and follow-up HW is designed in response to assessed need.

Policy agreed by staff:

Policy approved by Governors:

Policy to be reviewed: September 2014