



## Homework Policy

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## **IDLE C.E. (A) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

#### **Vision Statement**

At Idle CE (A) Primary School we celebrate being part of God's family. We inspire our children with a love of learning in a safe, caring environment, which is theologically rooted in our Christian Vision of:

**Jesus' promise of "life in all its fullness" (John 10.10)**

for children, young people and adults within our school community to flourish. We are driven by our vision to nurture Christian hope and high expectations for all involved with education of the pupils in our care and to serve the common good.

#### **Rationale**

Idle CE(A) Primary School is committed to setting regular homework appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. The purpose of homework changes as children progress through the school. Short activities of different kinds - simple games, learning spellings, research, number facts and reading together - provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive and secure environment. As children get older homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning and to consolidate basic skills. As children progress through key stage two they should be encouraged to work for regular, short periods, by themselves.

#### **Aims**

The aims of the school's homework policy are to:

- ensure that there is a consistent approach to homework throughout the school
- ensure that parents and carers understand the school's expectations of themselves and their children regarding homework
- prepare children in year 6 for secondary transfer.

The aims of homework are to:

- extend and support learning through preparation, reinforcement and revision
- encourage children to develop confidence, self-discipline, independence and a sense of responsibility for their own learning
- provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy learning together

There is a clearly defined weekly schedule of set homework tasks so that children and parents know what work to expect. Parents and children are reminded of the expectations at the beginning of each term when the class newsletter detailing work for the term is sent home. A copy of each termly

newsletter is also placed on the school website at [www.idleprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.idleprimaryschool.co.uk) in each year group area.

### **The type of work that will be sent home**

For homework to be really effective there needs to be involvement of parents / carers for some of the time. It is important that there is a balance of tasks and activities that are achievable by the children and that marking and feedback is manageable for the teacher. Homework will combine both set weekly tasks and encouraged tasks over a half term/term.

### **How parents can help to support children**

Homework encourages children to develop a sense of personal responsibility for their learning and helps them to develop as independent learners. Parents have a vital role to play in supporting and encouraging children to complete their homework. It will really help children if parents/carers can:

- provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets;
- provide a suitable place, equipped with resources and materials appropriate to the task;
- encourage and support children when they need it;
- support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning;
- encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed; and
- be actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular.

**Time to be spent on homework** Please see the schedule at the end of this policy for the amount of time suggested.

### **School will help to support parents by:**

- Ensuring that homework is manageable and tailored to the needs and abilities of children
- Ensuring that homework is set on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday and spellings are set Monday to Monday so that children and parents know when to expect homework and when it should be returned
- Providing short guides to teaching methods in things such as maths, spelling, reading and phonics and providing workshops or more personalised advice for parents where there is demand
- Consulting with parents to identify the support that parents would like and what type of support would be most helpful e.g. through parent forums, surveys, parent consultation evenings etc.
- Using web-based systems in Years 5&6 (SATS Companion and Mirodo) which support both pupils and parents through the use of online tutorials to explain key concepts.

### **Homework that will be provided:**

The school will provide homework consisting of both set homework tasks to be completed weekly to consolidate core learning and encouraged additional research, discussion and reflection tasks to develop pupils' wider skills and interests.

#### **Set Homework tasks:**

**Reading** Reading is a vital part of homework for all pupils within the school and the expectation is that they will read daily. Particularly for younger pupils, this needs to be supported by an adult. A record of reading completed should be written into this diary daily and signed by an adult. The diary should be brought to and from school by children each day.

**Spellings** All pupils will be set weekly spellings to learn from Year 1 upwards. These should be practised at home using the 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' approach and will be tested in school. In the reception classes children will be given appropriate sound or word activities which should be practised daily – this may include flash cards of key words or sounds to read or spell.

**Mathematics** Pupils in Key Stage 1 may be set short maths related activities to consolidate key number facts such as including counting, addition and subtraction facts or times table recall. Pupils in Years 3 and 4 will be set Times Tables Rockstars activities to practise their times tables weekly. This helps to prepare them for the Multiplication Tables Check at the end of Year 4. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 will be set mathematics activities weekly via a web-based platform to consolidate learning from lessons in school.

**English:** Pupils in Years 5&6 will be set weekly English homework via web-based programs.

#### **Encouraged homework tasks:**

**Christian Values Homework (CViE)** All pupils will be encouraged to complete a CViE based homework activity each term in response to our Worship themes. Families are encouraged to complete this together and to return any completed work to school for discussion and display.

**Research Projects** Each term pupils in Years 1-6 will be encouraged to complete a research project and return to school. This will link to the topic covered in class that term and pupils will be provided with a 'menu' of activities to complete. They are encouraged to be as creative as possible in how they present their work. Tasks may be related to any area of the curriculum and will be selected to enthuse, enjoy and engage pupils with their learning. We strongly recommend that children join the Public Library and use this as an opportunity to develop independent research skills.

#### **Feedback for pupils, parents or carers and teachers**

Homework completion of set homework tasks will be recognised by teachers within the aims of this homework policy and the school behaviour policy. Teachers will make clear to children and parents how the completion of set homework tasks extends and supports learning through preparation, reinforcement and revision. Teachers will monitor homework completion and encourage children to develop confidence, self-discipline, independence and a sense of responsibility for their own learning as a result of completing both set and encouraged tasks.

It is important that feedback about homework is given to children as quickly as possible. This may be given in a number of ways:

- immediately by parents or carers;
- discussion in class where homework is a part of the class work;

- individual comment from teacher;
- verbal feedback to children by the teacher;
- certificates in assembly to acknowledge effort;
- pupils reviewing the work done in small groups;
- presentation of homework in class.

Appropriate opportunities to enable children to share encouraged homework research projects with one another and their parents and carers will be determined by the classteachers at the end of each term.

### **Feedback from Parents/Carers**

Teachers are always interested to know how children carried out activities, whether they were too hard/ too easy/ interesting etc. The reading diary is an ideal place for parents, carers and teachers to record any comments. As with all school activities, parents are invited to discuss any queries or concerns with the class teacher in the first instance or the Phase Leader if this is a repeated instance.

**Non-completion of homework** All children are expected to complete their set homework tasks and submit these to their teacher by the deadline set. If homework is not being regularly completed over a half term period the teacher will contact parents to discuss the reasons. If the problem continues parents will be invited to a meeting with the phase leader. We recognise that for some families and pupils the completion of homework may require further support from school and in such circumstances we will seek to work with families and pupils in accordance with our school vision statement and the aims of this policy to enable all pupils to access homework and develop positive independent work habits.

## Appendix 1: Homework Schedule

### Reception

<b>Set Home Activities</b>	Reading Phonics	<b>Suggested Time</b>	10-15 minutes
A maximum of 10-15 minutes per day should be spent on the home activities set. Children will be given sounds to learn and reading weekly. As the year progresses, children may also be given curriculum activities from time to time. Children may be asked to look for objects to contribute to class topics. Christian Values discussions set termly.			

### Key Stage 1

<b>Set Home Activities</b>	Reading Spellings Maths (if appropriate)	<b>Suggested Time</b>	Year 1: 15 minutes Year 2: 15-20 minutes
<b>Encouraged</b>	Research Topic (termly) CViE (termly)		
A maximum of 15 minutes per day should be spent on the home activities. Children will be given reading and spellings weekly and may also receive short maths tasks. Research topics will be set termly and Christian Values discussions termly.			

### Lower Key Stage 2

<b>Set Home Activities</b>	Reading Spellings Maths	<b>Suggested Time</b>	Years 3&4: 20 minutes
<b>Encouraged</b>	Research Topic (termly) CViE (termly)		
A maximum of 20 minutes per day should be spent on the home activities. Children will be given reading and spellings weekly and short maths tasks (TTRS). Research topics will be set termly and Christian Values discussions termly.			

### Upper Key Stage 2

<b>Set Home Activities</b>	Reading Spellings Maths	<b>Suggested Time</b>	Years 5: 20-25 minutes Year 6: 25-30 minutes
<b>Encouraged</b>	Research Topic (termly) CViE (termly)		
A maximum of 25 minutes per day (Y5) and 30 minutes per day (Y6) should be spent on the home activities. Children will be given reading and spellings weekly. Maths and GPS work will be set via web-based programmes. Research topics will be set termly and Christian Values discussions termly.			

**All homework will be set and should be returned on a Friday and spellings on a Monday.**