

CAWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY AND GUIDELINES

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Rationale

Cawood CE School values the importance of the link between home and school and the benefits of working together.

We believe that it is important for parents and carers to share in what a child is doing at school and give them the opportunity to offer encouragement. It emphasises the fact that parents and carers and the school are working together. It gives parents and carers the opportunity to show children that they are interested in their work and as such can be rewarding for both. Homework promotes a positive attitude to learning, independence and prepares children well for the future.

Homework is used to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, whilst also giving children the opportunity to make use of resources at home. As children get older, it helps them to take responsibility for their own learning and encourages good learning habits.

Our approach to homework varies according to the age and needs of the child and the curriculum areas being studied. We place importance on the tasks set and plan them accordingly. Homework follows a regular pattern and children are given clear feedback on the tasks undertaken.

Guidelines for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) / Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

Parents can provide the best support for all children by asking about and showing an interest in their work.

In Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 emphasis is placed upon shared activities to develop key skills in English, mathematics and knowledge and understanding (EYFS).

Children regularly take home reading books to share with others. These may be banded books or RWInc books. They are asked to learn red words and are given green words to practise. We ask parents to hear children read as often as possible and at the minimum five times a week.

Parents and carers should make a note in the child's reading record and add a positive comment.

From the middle of Year 1 children will take home spellings.

Maths homework is based on the SMIRF targets which are put in the reading record and updated as they are achieved. Children also have access to online resources such as Sumdog at home from Year 1 in order to encourage the development of key skills in mathematics.

Each term/half term parents are sent information on the topic and the learning areas being taught so that parents and carers can be kept fully informed and are then able to support their children with the general curriculum.

Guidelines for Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

Parents can provide the best support for all children by asking about and showing an interest in their work.

In lower Key Stage 2, children need to share a book with an adult or other child on a regular basis in order to improve their skills and to build up their self-confidence. Children continue to take reading books home and there is an expectation that parents and carers continue to hear their child read. In many cases children enjoy reading to themselves, so parents can help by encouraging them to discuss the parts they liked most, the characters, predicting what may happen next, etc. We expect children to regularly comment on their reading in their planner and for parents to support this by signing the planner on a weekly basis.

Parents are informed about the topics and other work the children are focusing on at the beginning of each term/half term. In addition, parents may receive further information on homework which will particularly focus on using online learning opportunities for developing literacy and numeracy skills, as well as the learning of times-tables, SMIRFs and spellings. Children are given a home/school planner and homework is timetabled in this (or on the parent information letter) setting out what it is and when it is due back in school. There is a section for parents to make comments and we encourage our parents to use this as a form of communication between home and school.

Guidelines for Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

Parents can provide the best support for all children by asking about and showing an interest in their work.

As the children get older we increase the amount and variety of homework. In addition to reading, times-tables, SMIRFs and spellings, they have regular homework related to topics and online learning opportunities linked to English and Maths. Topic based tasks are in the form of a Learning Log. These range across the subjects of the curriculum and may take a week or more to complete.

In upper Key Stage 2, children need to continue to share a book with an adult or other child on a regular basis in order to improve their skills and to build up their self-confidence. In many cases children enjoy reading to themselves, so parents can help by encouraging them to discuss the parts they liked most, the characters, predicting what may happen next, etc. We expect children to regularly comment on their reading in their planner and for parents to support this by signing the planner on a weekly basis.

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We particularly encourage parents and carers to develop a good homework routine and provide a quiet place for children to do their homework. This is an essential element of preparing our children for secondary readiness.

Other issues

Whilst as a school we do not enforce every individual homework task, we do value it and strongly encourage its regular completion and ask you to support us in this, ensuring your child hands any homework in promptly. As a school we will mark and return homework as quickly as possible, recognising and celebrating good quality homework. Sometimes this will be written marking and sometimes oral feedback.

When children are ill, we do not send work home as we assume that they are not well enough to work. It may happen that a child is absent for a length of time, but is well enough to do some work. The teacher and the parent will agree what should be done in these particular circumstances.

If parents take holidays in school time, regrettably it is not possible for their children to be given homework. However, the children could make a holiday diary or log book and collect information on the places they have visited.