

South Molton Community Primary School



Homework Policy

July 2020



We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At South Molton Community Primary School we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Hearing that parents do not value homework or that their education only happens in schools sends the wrong message to our young people. We ask that all parents support their children with homework and reinforce the importance of it to show children the importance of a good work ethic.

Building a strong work ethic will allow a person to train themselves so that hard work is almost automatic. Forming good habits such as focusing, staying motivated and finishing tasks immediately helps to create a good work ethic that will stand them in good stead for the future.

This policy has been adapted to include the views of parent's from our 2018 questionnaire and has been reviewed by the school council, parents, staff and governors. From this questionnaire over 88% of parents valued homework and three quarters of parents felt that the amount of homework given by this school is right for their child. We have adapted our policy in light of this questionnaire and will repeat the questionnaire at the end of 2019/20 to see how this has impacted on parents and pupils.

Our aims of providing homework are to:

- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence and an individual responsibility.
- Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account.
- Ensure that parents/carers understand our expectations of them.
- Improve the quality of learning experiences offered to the children.
- Extend and support learning.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership.
- Provide opportunities for children and parents to share learning experiences.
- Reinforces work completed in school.
- Prepare Year Six children for the secondary phase of education.

Homework is set on a Friday and is handed in on a Wednesday. One day's leeway will be given regarding the deadline for handing in work. Unfinished or missing work will need to be completed during lunchtimes during homework club. This was chosen by the majority of parents as the preferred outcome of a child not completing their homework. If a child does not complete their homework on more than three occasions then concerns will be discussed with parents.

A Homework Club will be provided if needed for children who wish to do some of their homework at school and support will be provided.

Homework will:

1. Increase as children get older,
2. Be interesting and relevant to the class work,
3. Be encouraged by a positive approach,

The information below gives the expected agreed amount of homework for children.

Reception- Reading at least three times a week alongside practise of the phonics sounds and words sent home. One piece of optional homework a week to be completed with parents.

Years 1 and 2- Reading at least three times a week. Weekly spellings practise. One piece of homework a week to be completed with parents. This will alternate between literacy, maths and topic.

- In Key Stage Two, children will use homework books to record their work.

Years 3 and 4- Reading at least three times a week, encouraging sustained independent reading at home. 1 piece of homework a week which children should complete with parental supervision and guidance. Weekly spellings and maths fluency facts will also be sent home to practise.

Years 5 and 6- Reading at least three times a week, encouraging sustained independent reading at home. 2 pieces of homework a week (or one larger piece) which children should complete independently whilst supervised by a parent. Weekly spellings and maths fluency facts will also be sent home to practise.

Optional Challenge - In KS1 and 2 there are optional online activities such as Times Tables Rockstars, Mathletics, Purple Mash and Read Theory which children can access outside of school hours if they feel they can do more at home. Many of these adapt to the children's level and offer opportunities for challenge.

We encourage teachers to focus homework on tasks that follow on or build up to work completed in school and that children can access for their ability level. We try to minimise project based work which calls for a large amount of support from parents. In our survey parents preferred 'fluency activities' such as learning maths facts and spellings and worksheets. Homework will be looked at by teachers and marked if appropriate.

We encourage parents to support their children's work by providing where possible a quiet undisturbed environment for them to work. We understand that some of the methods and topics we cover in school may not be familiar to parents. Through our survey parents overwhelmingly wanted online support through the school website to give them advice. We shall be building up the information provided on the website over the next year to develop this.

Following these guidelines will help children to develop independence, realise their full potential and prepare them for the next stage in their education. We thank parents for supporting the school with this aim.

The governing body will review the policy annually.