

# Acorn Federation

## Home Learning Policy

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### Rationale:

**Homework is not compulsory on the part of the teacher and the child.**

However, it is seen as an important extension to classroom activities, and the involvement of parents is essential. It is a real opportunity for parents to help in their child's progress, through supporting targets set by the school and encouraging them to foster a home learning environment. The school will provide advice for parents when planning their home learning activities.

Homework increases in regularity and amount as the child moves up the school. No task should take so much time that it causes distress. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher in such an instance.

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### Aims:

- Encouraging children to work independently within a specific time.
  - Helping them to develop perseverance and self-discipline.
  - Enabling greater progress to be made in curriculum areas.
  - Setting a more varied task which might not be possible in the classroom.
  - Allowing more time to be spent in the classroom on those tasks which need teacher help.
  - Involving parents and other adults in children's work.
  - Encouraging children to spend more time on a topic they enjoy.
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### Home learning expectations:

#### Key Stage 1 (Reception, Years 1 and 2)

It is important for the children to practise reading as often as possible at home. Please comment on and sign the reading record book and see that both are returned to the school so that the book can be changed when necessary. Flashcards to learn high frequency words and sound books will also be used in Class 1.

The children will also receive spellings to learn relating to their other work in class or to the Literacy programme. Look, Cover, Write Check is a good way to help learn spellings.

An information sheet outlining some ways in which you can help your child with mental arithmetic, practical mathematics and reading will be sent home to encourage support in this area of the curriculum.

All written work should be carried out neatly using a pencil.

Infant children should spend no more than 15 minutes in any evening carrying out their homework.

#### Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Individual class teachers will frame their own homework routine. General expectations are identified in termly objectives. Sometimes this will be a set homework topic, e.g. spellings or tables work, and sometimes it will be the completion of work started in school. Sometimes children will be given a few days to complete the work and the children are expected to meet the deadline - this may need planning out the work so that a little is done each day.

Time spent on homework on any evening should be a maximum of. . .

	<b>On any evening ...</b>	<b>In any week ...</b>
Years 3 and 4	20 minutes.	1 ½ hours
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes.	2 ½ hours

Homework will not be set on every evening - according to the class routine.

All children are taught to use joined up handwriting and parents should encourage this when overseeing homework. All written work for Years 5 and 6 should be in ink. All Mathematics work should be in pencil.

## **Parents can help by:**

- Making sure their child has a quiet place to work.
- Encouraging regular reading and visits to the library and other places of interest.
- Helping them to develop positive attitudes to their work and expecting high standards of written work.
- Talking with their children regularly about the work they are engaged in.
- Encouraging them and supporting them; helping them to develop a sense of pride in their work, together with feelings of satisfaction and achievement.
- Informing the class teacher if any circumstances have prevented set work from being completed.
- Regularly working on targets set a parents evenings

## **What can parents do?**

SHARING AND READING BOOKS with your child is one of the most important activities at home. This can start before they begin in reception and can continue through school even when they are fluent readers themselves. It does not have to be a school reading book, any reading materials – from comics to car magazines – all help to improve their understanding of the written word. More formal homework should not replace the need for daily reading.

Other activities that encourage the development of your child include:

- Playing board and card games
- Talking and discussing current events
- Learning to tell the time
- Practical activities in the home, such as cooking, can help your child with weight and measurement
- Shopping – reading notices, prices and allowing your child to pay for things

With regular support from parents home learning becomes a strengthening link between home and school.

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