

Archibald First School

Homework Policy



Introduction

At Archibald First School we believe that the time children spend on doing homework will develop more than academic skills alone. Homework sessions encourage children to share what they have learnt at school with their parents and carers, develop time management skills, work independently and develop personal interests in a creative way. It will also improve memory and critical thinking. We are fully aware that there are some parents who appreciate the value of homework, whilst there are some that feel there is too much. Children lead extremely busy lives and have extracurricular commitments. Therefore, we will endeavour to set a reasonable amount of homework and give guidelines as to the amount of time children should spend on their homework.

Aims

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Make homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school.
- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest.
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.
- Encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education.
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school.

Our Vision

We believe that children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. It is a valuable life skill and links to homework commitments in the middle schools. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability. Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance. As the children progress through the school so the amount of homework increases. Teachers ensure that the tasks are suited to the needs of the children in their class, are purposeful and are aimed at

developing and consolidating basic skills. Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear aims and instructions for tasks and may include examples of work to guide both children and adults. Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant. Parents will be informed about our aims in setting homework and about the importance this type of work plays in children's education.

Homework Activities

Our homework is designed to build upon the concepts and skills that pupils have been learning across a range of subjects. Teachers will post homework tasks on Seesaw (Years 1 to 4) and Tapestry (EYFS). In addition to daily reading and weekly spellings and maths tasks, children in key stage 2 are also given termly projects to complete, these are open ended tasks that they children can complete in any way that they choose. The aim of this is to motivate and inspire children into becoming independent learners whilst developing their unique interests and creativity. Tasks are to be completed in the children's homework books or uploaded on Seesaw/Tapestry. The termly projects in key stage 2 are brought into school and shared with staff and classmates as a celebration of children's hard work and learning.

A breakdown of how homework is structured in each key stage is provided below and is shared with parents annually. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectations so that by the time children reach Year 4 they have established a clear routine in preparation for middle school.

Foundation Stage

- Reading and sharing books daily; adults to keep a signed record in the reading records.
- You and Me tasks linked to learning – ideas for parents/carers to try at home and post photos and comments on Tapestry.
- Children may be given additional 'top-up' practice of phonic sounds and/or common exception words.

Key Stage 1

- Reading/sharing books with parents/carers at least 3 times weekly and recording in the Home-School Diary.
- Children will be given a list of spellings to learn which will follow the spelling patterns taught in their phonics and SPAG sessions
- Weekly maths task
- Occasional You and Me task or project linked to topic studied or topical news issue.

Key Stage 2

- Reading at least 3 times a week
- Weekly maths task
- Learning of times tables via Times Table Rockstars
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested on the following week.
- Termly project linked to the topic being covered in school.

Conclusion

We hope that homework set at Archibald First School will help children to reinforce and practise skills learnt at school, build confidence and independence in their abilities and, most importantly, help to promote a lifelong love of learning.

Monitoring and Review

This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body. We are aware of the need to review the Homework Policy regularly. The policy will be formally reviewed annually by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Date of last review: Summer 2022

Date of next review: Summer 2025