

Court de Wyck Church of England Primary School



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FORMAL DOCUMENT

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Homework Policy

Homework Policy

Court de Wyck C of E Primary School

Rationale

At Court de Wyck Primary School, our vision is to develop successful learners within a learning culture. We recognise that life-long learning takes place in all aspects of peoples' lives – not just in the classroom.

For the children in our school, learning at home is believed to be an essential part of good education.

This policy has been written following a consultation involving pupils, teachers, parents and governors.

Purposes of Homework

At Court de Wyck Primary School, homework should:

- Reinforce and consolidate classroom learning
- Help children to develop independent learning skills, including research skills
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy learning experiences together
- Inspire children to want to extend their own learning
- Be accessible for all children at their level of understanding

Homework should not:

- Introduce learning which has not been covered in the classroom
- Cause unnecessary stress or anxiety for the child or parent!
- Exceed recommended guidelines

Guidelines

The Government agrees that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in Key Stage 1 should be designed to take, on average, one hour per week. At Key Stage 2 the expectations should gradually increase so that by years 5 and 6 children are spending about 30 minutes a day on homework.

Recommended time allocations for homework at Court de Wyck Primary School:

Reception	Building to 10 minutes per day	Sharing and exploring books
Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week	Reading, phonic activities, other literacy and number work
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week	Reading, literacy and numeracy with occasional assignments in other subjects
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes per day	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum.

In addition to this, children may be asked to complete a reasonable amount of class work which should have been completed in class time e.g. if the learner has chosen not to complete a particular task in the time given. If this is the case, the class teacher will contact the parent by telephone to explain the reasons for this work coming home.

We encourage and expect all children to work hard during the school term. At Court de Wyck Primary School we believe that families should use holiday times to relax and share together. Therefore the consulted stakeholders of Court de Wyck Primary School have decided on a 'No Holiday Homework' policy for the end of term breaks.

The exception to this is the long summer break where the class teacher receiving the child in

September will set an open-ended topic based activity with 'Must, Should, Could' activities for the children. For example:

Your activity is to write a biography to give your teacher more information about you.

Must: You must record your like and dislikes

Should: You should think about and record your personal targets for this year

Could: You could produce an 'All about me!' book with lots of important information about yourself.

Court de Wyck Primary School strongly discourages parents from removing their children from school during term time. Term time absences will only be authorised by the Headteacher in extreme circumstances (see Attendance Policy). In line with this policy, holiday homework packs will not be produced by the school.

Homework need not always be written activities and therefore will not always be 'marked' by the class teacher. However, the homework that the child has completed will be acknowledged either by sharing with the class, in small groups or through discussion with the class teacher.

At Court de Wyck Primary School, we recognise that setting the right type of homework for a wide ability range of children is not always easy. Some children may benefit from special tasks, separate from the homework set for the rest of the class. On the other hand, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible.

If a child is invited to take part in an intervention program for literacy or numeracy, an additional piece of homework may be required. Parents will be consulted about this and their commitment secured before their child begins the program.

Contd.

Court de Wyck Primary School can be expected to:

- Ensure that a clear homework policy is produced and shared with all relevant stakeholders
- Ensure that appropriate homework for each child is set in line with the policy
- Give children prompt, clear feedback on their completed homework in line with assessment for learning principles
- Keep parents informed on the nature of homework tasks set, timetables for homework and expected dates of submission
- Contact parents immediately if there are concerns that a child's homework is not being submitted on time
- Inform parents regularly about their child's homework performance
- Provide advice and support for parents on how best they can support their children's learning at home through formal workshops, but also informally at the request of the parent
- Produce an annual letter for parents about homework

Parents can be expected to:

- Provide a secure and conducive environment for the children to complete their homework
- Share the fun, and model the importance of learning with their children by being actively involved in joint homework activities
- Be explicit in their support of the school's homework policy and the value of homework in developing learning
- Share and discuss homework with children both before and after completion. It is useful to the class teacher if the parent makes brief notes on the homework about whether their child found the task too easy/difficult and if possible, which specific aspects caused challenge
- Ensure their child spends no more than the recommended time on a task, particularly if they are finding the task challenging, unless the child expresses a desire to continue. The process is more important than the finished product in most cases!
- If a child is unable to complete a homework task or any part of an activity, inform the class teacher
- Seek support from the school if they are unsure about how to support their child's learning

Children can be expected to:

- Share homework with their parents
- Submit their completed homework activities on time
- Reflect on their own performance in homework activities
- Extend their own learning when an activity engages them

Monitoring and evaluation:

The Headteacher will collect and review a selection of homework assignments set, three times per year.

Children's and parents' views regarding homework will be collected via annual questionnaires.

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29 November 2007

Dear Parents

Homework

At Court de Wyck Primary School we believe that homework is an important part of the learning process for our children. We have a clear homework policy that is available to all parents from the school office. We are aware that occasionally, homework causes anxiety amongst some families that defeats the objectives of this policy. I am writing to outline a few key points and expectations to try to alleviate this stress!

The guidelines for the amount of homework children receive is set by government and is as follows:

Reception	Building to 10 minutes per day
Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes per day

Children should not be expected to spend significantly longer on homework than the guide times above. It does not matter if activities do not take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful. We endeavour to organise homework activities so that children do not receive too much on any one night.

If your child is fascinated by a topic or task and requests longer to work on it, great! However, if they are finding a task too challenging and are starting to get distressed, let them stop. Sometimes coming back to it later helps, but if you feel that they have tried their hardest and are finding it too difficult, just write a note to the class teacher to explain.

Please do not let homework time interfere with out-of-school clubs and activities – we believe that these are important for your child's development too. If, for any reason, your child is unable to complete a homework task, again just write a note to the class teacher to explain.

We strongly encourage parents to get involved in supporting their child's homework activities. As your child gets older, the amount of independence in completing tasks increases, however parents can still share finished products with their child. Feedback from parents is very important for the child.

We endeavour to give feedback on homework promptly. It will let your child know how well they have done and how they can improve next time. This may not always happen through written comments from the teacher. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons or teachers may give individual verbal feedback.

If you have any concerns about the homework your child is receiving, or you are unsure about how best you can support your child's learning, the first point of contact must always be the class teacher.

The following websites provide further support for parents. Also please take advantage of Ally Cheeseman, our Parent Support Advisor who is skilled at providing this kind of support:

Ally Cheeseman: (01934) 833070 or acheeseman@backwellschool.net

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/life/you_and_school/helping_at_home/homework_how_much.shtml

<http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/>

Finally, please remember that homework should be a positive and hopefully fun learning experience to be shared by child and parent!

Yours sincerely

Nick Riddiough
Headteacher