

Whitecote Primary School



Homework Policy

Agreed: June 2026

Review: June 2027

Whitecote Primary School

Homework Policy

1. Intent

At Whitecote Primary School, homework is used to support the school's curriculum intent by reinforcing key knowledge and skills already taught in school. Our approach recognises the importance of pupils' wellbeing, family life and workload balance. Homework is planned carefully so that it is purposeful, inclusive and proportionate, and does not place unnecessary pressure on pupils or their families.

2. Aims

Homework at Whitecote Primary School aims to:

- Consolidate and strengthen core skills that underpin future learning
- Support pupils in developing independence and learning routines
- Encourage positive engagement with learning beyond the school day
- Promote enjoyment of reading and confidence with basic skills
- Ensure that learning expectations are reasonable, achievable and equitable

3. Curriculum Focus

Homework is closely aligned to classroom learning and will focus on essential foundational skills, including:

- Reading (e.g. individual reading, shared reading, discussion of texts)
- Mathematics (e.g. number facts, basic calculations, fluency)
- Spelling
- Phonics (where appropriate)

Homework does not introduce new curriculum content, but provides opportunities to practise, revisit and embed learning.

4. Time Allocation and Workload

In line with our commitment to pupil wellbeing and family balance, homework is designed to be completed within the following age-appropriate time expectations:

- Years 1 and 2: up to 15 minutes
- Years 3 and 4: up to 20 minutes
- Years 5 and 6: up to 25 minutes

These time allocations ensure homework remains manageable and does not contribute to increased family stress or fatigue.

5. Homework Window and Flexibility

- Homework is provided with a set completion window, allowing families flexibility in deciding when learning best fits their routine.
- Homework is not expected to be completed or returned the following day.
- This approach supports inclusion by recognising varying family circumstances and access to time and resources.

6. Expectations and Inclusion

- Homework is encouraged as a supportive learning tool, but there are no sanctions or penalties for homework that is not completed.
- Pupils will not be disadvantaged in class or excluded from learning opportunities due to incomplete homework.
- Staff take a supportive and understanding approach, ensuring that homework expectations remain fair and accessible to all pupils.

7. Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Support their children in a positive and reassuring manner
- Promote regular reading and a love of learning
- Communicate with school if homework is causing anxiety or difficulty

Parents are not expected to teach new learning, but to support practice and encouragement.

8. Clarity and Accessibility of Instructions

All homework tasks will be set with clear, simple and age-appropriate instructions so that they are easily understood by all pupils and families. Instructions will be concise and, where appropriate, supported by examples or verbal explanation to ensure accessibility. This approach helps pupils to engage confidently with their homework and supports families in providing appropriate encouragement without confusion or undue pressure.

9. Monitoring and Impact

- Teaching staff monitor the effectiveness of homework in supporting learning and engagement.
- Feedback from pupils and families is used to evaluate impact and inform adjustments.
- This policy reflects the school's commitment to ensuring workload decisions positively support pupil outcomes and wellbeing.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it continues to meet the needs of pupils, families and the school community.