



THE HERMITAGE and THE OAKTREE SCHOOLS

Inspire, Learn, Achieve

Homework Policy

Person Responsible	Senior Leadership Team
Date Adopted	Summer Term 2023
Date of last review	Summer Term 2023
Date of next review	Summer Term 2025

At The Hermitage and Oaktree Schools, we believe that support from home is an important aspect of a child's education. Homework can provide the opportunity for a shared family learning experience, which can inspire further learning and interest, as well as preparing children for the demands and responsibilities of secondary school and help to develop independent, organisational skills necessary for later life.

Aims

- To provide children with an opportunity to share their learning with their parents/carers and/or other family members.
- To motivate children to extend their learning and interests beyond the school day.
- To promote independence and a love of learning.
- To provide opportunity for the child to practise, consolidate and extend what has been learnt in class, including the development of the basic skills e.g. reading, times tables, independent research skills.
- To allow parents, carers and the school to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.
- To be an enjoyable, inspirational and purposeful supplement to class work.
- To enable the child to begin to take responsibility for organising their own workload.
- To aid each child's progress towards achieving his or her full potential with the assistance, support and co-operation of parents/carers.

Time spent on homework

The amount of time taken to complete homework will increase as children progress through the schools. The following guide is the recommended time that children should spend on their homework tasks each week, in order to complete them to the best of their ability.

- **Year R:** 10 minutes of Phonics (RWI sound sheets) and daily reading. Optional home learning on half termly topic webs.
- **Year 1:** 15 minutes of Spellings (Spelling Houses) and Maths (Maths Rockets), and daily reading. Optional home learning on termly topic webs.
- **Year 2:** 20 minutes of Spellings (Spelling Houses) and Maths (Maths Rockets), and daily reading. Optional home learning on termly topic webs.
- **Year 3:** 30 minutes of Maths (times tables practice) and daily reading
- **Year 4:** 30 minutes of Maths (times tables practice) and daily reading
- **Year 5:** 40 minutes of Maths (online Mathletics) and English (SPAG* task) plus daily reading
- **Year 6:** Up to 50 minutes of Maths and English (SPAG* task) and daily reading.

*SPAG = Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

It is desirable that every child reads every day; this can be as a 'sharing' experience with an adult. Reading should occur **at least five times** a week. In Early Years and Key Stage 1, phonetically decodable home reading books are provided. In Key Stage 2, reading material may include fiction, non-fiction, annuals, comics, recipes, etc. Books can be borrowed from the school library or children may want to choose from books at home or from their local library.

We request that parents sign their child's Reading Record book to show that their child has read at home.

Year 6 only:

- SATs revision may replace normal homework in the weeks prior to SATs week.
- During the last half term (summer) formal homework may be reduced or discontinued as children are involved in a busy period of other activities.

Guidelines

- Homework is given to provide positive reinforcement and supports the work completed in school.
- Homework will not be given during school holidays.
- If a child does not understand the homework, then they should see their teacher at the earliest opportunity so that it can be explained again. We ask that this is done before the completion deadline, to allow the child to then continue completing the homework.
- If a child struggles with their homework then they must stop after the allotted time, even if the homework is not complete. They should then see their teacher, to help them address any issues.
- Written homework tasks will normally be sent out on a Wednesday and should be returned to school by the following Monday. Even though the time period includes a weekend, there is no expectation that homework should be completed at weekends; the homework time period will always include a number of weekday evenings.
- Children who do not complete written homework tasks without a valid reason, supported by a note from parents, will be expected to complete homework during a break/lunch time; this will be supervised by a member of staff.
- Teachers will record the handing in of homework for their class every week.
- If homework is handed in late 3 times in a term, the teacher will contact parents/carers to discuss this further.
- The school will provide information to parents about current methods of learning and teaching, to enable parents to support their children's learning at home.
- Parents should inform the school if homework does not arrive home with their child.
- Teachers will assess each piece of written work and verbal feedback given to the pupil, in line with the school's Marking and Feedback Policy. Some pieces of work may be marked in more detail, if the teachers feel this is appropriate.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current age and stage of development. In addition, we aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background. Our homework programme takes account of individual needs and of children's other interests and commitments outside of school.