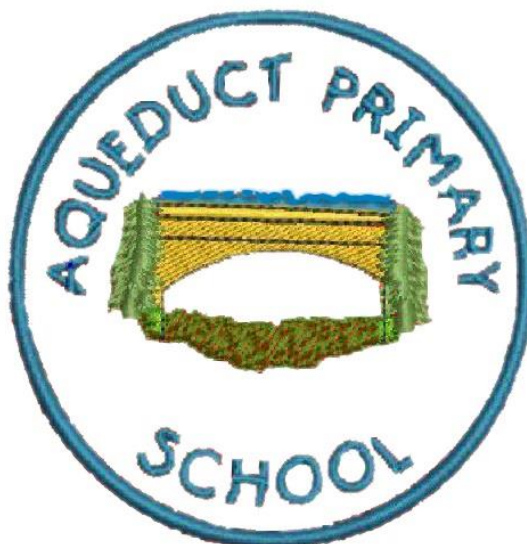


Aqueduct Primary School Homework Policy



2022

Adopted by staff and Governors February 2022

Our Strapline

Building tomorrow, Leading the way ...

Our Values

Positivity, happiness, learning, kindness, safety and respect.

Aqueduct Primary School - Homework Policy 2022

This policy is based on Government guidelines which highlight the link between homework and academic achievement. The time you spend on doing homework will develop more than academic skills alone. Homework sessions encourage you to use your time wisely, work independently and engage better with the subject matter. It will also improve your 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 endeavor to set a reasonable amount of homework and give guidelines as to the amount of time children should spend on their homework.

Over the past year the school has been reviewing the homework policy. Parents, Governors, teachers and children have all had a say in how best homework could support the children's learning. This policy is a result of listening to all views with the aim of inspiring children to learn.

Aims of the policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest.
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.
- To 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.
- To make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school.
- Make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers.
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school.
- It is a valuable life skill and links to homework commitments in Secondary school

Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. 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.

Principles

- 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 differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear learning objectives and motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
- 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 Creative Curriculum 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 class dojo on a Friday and give the option of linked homework to previous teaching points or suggestions from the home experience booklets.
- In addition to daily reading and weekly spellings, we therefore give an option for 'home experiences' for each Key Stage, in order to provide a range of engaging activities for the children to choose from to motivate and inspire them into becoming independent learners.
- The home experience booklets offer a choice of tasks that can be completed in any order and to encourage family time.
- Tasks are to be completed in the children's homework books or uploaded on to class dojo (preferred method since COVID19).

A breakdown of how homework is structured in each class is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for secondary school.

Foundation Stage

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

Key Stage 1 (Classes 2, 3 and 4)

- 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 phased groups or linked to curriculum
- Learning of multiplication facts 2, 5, 10 (and starting on 3 when ready) using Times Table Rock Stars
- Home Experience booklet to encourage quality time with the family.
- Suggested homework option linked to learning from the week.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Classes 5, 6 and 7)

- Reading at least 3 times a week
- Learning times tables using Times Tables Rockstars (continuing with 2, 5 and 10 and learning of multiplication facts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 when ready)
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested on the following week.
- Homework Experience booklet to encourage quality time with family.
- Suggested homework option linked to learning from the week.

Upper Key stage 2 (Classes 8, 9 and 10)

- Reading at least 3 times a week
- Learning of multiplication facts ongoing - all tables to be revised, in any order, mixed and to include division
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested the following week

- Homework Experience booklet to encourage quality time with family.
- Suggested homework option linked to learning from the week.
- From the Spring Term, Y6 children will also have SATs revision as homework

How you can help your child with their homework

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it.

The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- Providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support.
- Making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning.
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set.
- Signing and dating your child's completed reading in their records to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts.
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time.
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- Visits to libraries, museums etc.
- Cooking with them.
- Taking your child swimming
- Playing games, e.g., board games, cards, ball games.
- Watching informative TV programmes together.
- Providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g., cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- Gardening and growing plants.
- Using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.

How long should your child spend doing their homework?

Homework guidelines for primary schools

The emphasis is on how homework helps your child to learn, rather than on whether it takes a certain amount of time. For example, some children will work quicker than others and get more done in less time. The rough guidelines for primary school children are:

- Years 1 and 2: one hour per week
- Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day

www.direct.gov.uk

Remember: Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building... Enthusing your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance.

Make it fun!

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Safeguarding

Aqueduct School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This means that we have an up-to-date Child Protection Policy and procedures in place which we refer to in our prospectus. All staff (including supply staff, volunteers, and governors) must ensure that they are aware of these procedures. Families are welcome to read the Policy on the school website.

Our Designated Safeguard Leads (DSLs) are: Tammy Lockley (HEAD), Jo Clarke, (Deputy) Cara Duppa, (EYFS lead) Ash Palin, (Assistant Head) Eloise Harrow (SENCO) and Lisa Batchelor (Inclusion Support Manager).

Our safeguarding governor is Mrs Louise Aubrey.