

Date Valley School

Company number: 06845508 Registered Charity number: 1136298
Mitcham Court, Cricket Green, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 4LB
Telephone: 0208 648 4647· Tel: 07980299717 Email: managingdirector@dvst.org.uk



HOMEWORK POLICY

The term "homework" is taken to include any work or activities that reinforce learning, which children are asked to do out of school either on their own or with parents and carers.

Through this policy we aim to:-

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- Ensure parents / guardians have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their child
- Improve the quality of learning experience offered to children
- Extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision
- Provide opportunities for parents and teachers to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- At Year 6, to prepare children for secondary transfer

The Purpose of Homework

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and the parents / guardians of a child. To work together with parents to pursue the aims of the school
- Allow parents to become more involved in their child learning
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in English, Maths and Quran
- Using resources for learning, of all kinds, at home
- Extending school learning, for example through additional reading
- Encouraging children, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school

Early Years

- There is no formal homework set in Early Years
- Parents are encouraged to support learning and development through fun activities that children do with parents:
 - 1) Digging in the garden
 - 2) Visiting interesting places
 - 3) Taking part in sports
 - 4) Spend lots of time talking with their child
 - 5) Read plenty of books together
 - 6) Play lots of games together - spending quality time with the child is the best way to help them learn and develop
 - 7) Inform the school if the child does something new or interesting
 - 8) Communicate with the teachers if any problems or worries arise (about their child) or if they require help from the school

Key Stage 1

- At Key Stage 1, the key purpose of homework is different to that of Key Stage 2. For the younger children, homework should be a strong link between the school and parents. It is an opportunity for parents to know the areas their child is working on and it is an opportunity for the child to share their experiences
- The teacher's role is to make sure that the homework set reflects the learning that the child is doing at school

- The main areas to be covered for Key Stage 1 children are English, Maths, and Quran, with a strong emphasis on reading both English and Quran; learning the sight words; memorising number bonds and memorising surahs. Spelling / writing in both Arabic and English.

Key Stage 2

- At Key Stage 2, the homework is to give the child the opportunity to develop the skills of independent learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose
- Children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to studying on their own
- The content of the homework should increasingly cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content, with a regular weekly / monthly / termly schedule

The type of homework, which is appropriate for children of different ages

Key Stage 1

- **Year 1** - formal written homework is not given until the middle of the second term. However this does not mean that the child should not supplement their education at home. Children are expected to focus a great deal on reading – both Quran and English. Mental Maths with recognition of number bonds is important and handwriting practise is essential. Children will be given sight words to learn and some spelling will be given from term 1. Children will also be given reading books to read to parents, at home
- **Year 2** - a simple piece of homework for English, Maths and Quran is sent home every week. This will tie in with work being done in school. Sometimes, children will be given project work which will be based on another curriculum subject, but will bring in cross curricular links and skills. The project work will give parents a chance to see what else their child is learning as well as helping their child to develop very useful skills of research, investigation and independence. When project work is set, other English and Maths homework will not be set, although Quran will continue as normal. Children will also be given reading books to read to parents, at home.

Key Stage 2

- In Key Stage 2 the children will bring home work that revises and reinforces basic important skills in both English and Maths. This will tie in with work being done in school as much as possible, but not always. Sometimes, children will be given project work which will be based on another curriculum subject, but will bring in cross curricular links and skills. The project work will give parents a chance to see what else their child is learning as well as helping your child to develop very useful skills of research, investigation and independence. When project work is set, other English and Maths homework will not be set, although Quran will continue as normal. Children will also be given reading books to read to parents, at home.
- Project homework will help the children to use and consolidate the following skills:-
 - Finding out information
 - Learning how to collate the information into a readable attractive format
 - Reading in preparation for lessons
 - Preparing oral presentations
 - More traditional written assignment
- Project time should be given with clear guidelines as to what is expected of the child and approximately how much time a child should be expected to spend on the project

The amount of time spent in total and management of all different areas

The amount of time children are expected to spend on the work varies for different ages. Date Valley School has looked at the government guidelines on this but has extended the time to take account of Quran studies. The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning. However, a regular pattern is desirable, therefore the school has looked at approximately how long a child should spend doing homework weekly then daily. This has further been broken up into the areas to be covered and how long should be spent on each area. (Appendix 1)

Parents of KS1 and KS2 are advised to refer to a copy of the curriculum book which includes details of the type of homework that is expected and clarifies broadly how much homework children should receive in each area of the curriculum.

If a child struggles to keep up with the homework, despite spending more than the recommended allocated time on a task, parents should inform the school through the home communication book. If teachers are informed that this is the case, then a child will not be reprimanded for not completing the homework.

For Children on intervention

For some children it may be necessary to set separate homework and / or reduce the amount given. It may not be possible to cover all the areas above. However, it is important that they do as much in common with the other children as possible. It may be necessary to draw up a separate work schedule for some children with all teachers involved being aware of the child's needs. Parents should be closely involved in a case like this to help us to set the guidelines for homework. As well as a possibly reduced workload, homework may need to be thought out differently, with the following points being considered. Tasks should:-

- Have a very clear focus and time guideline
- Give plenty of opportunities for a child to succeed
- Help develop special as well as other skills where necessary
- Be varied and not purely written assignments
- Be manageable for teachers

The purpose of homework for a child on intervention should be the same as for all. Homework should not be seen as a way of attempting to get these children to catch up with the rest of the class.

How Homework will be planned and coordinated so the demands on children are balanced and manageable

- The class teacher will be responsible for ensuring that the demands on children and parents are manageable
- The class teacher will work together with the headteacher and other teachers involved to make sure that the child is managing work set
- Homework should be handed in on time. However if a child needs more time, this must be made clear to the teacher by the parent. If homework is not handed in and we have had no communication from the parents on three occasions, then the child will be given an infringement slip and children will have to complete the homework during break or lunch time. Years 4-6 children may have to complete it during a detention.
- Clear guidelines will be given to all teachers and parents involved and a timetable of tasks should be followed by the teachers, parents and children

The role of parents / guardians in supporting the child

Parents should:-

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework, either alone or, especially for younger children, together with an adult
- Make it clear to the children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Encourage the children in their work - not "do it for them"
- Encourage children and praise them when they complete their homework
- Understand that quality of experience is more valuable than quantity of time spent on it
- Listen to their child read regularly and foster an enjoyment of books right through primary school
- Inform teachers who have set the homework of any difficulties with the homework

Marking of homework

The formal marking of homework is generally not done for all areas. However, the teacher should indicate in some way, such as a tick, sticker etc..., that she has looked at the homework and acknowledged that the child has completed it, or / and worked to the best of their ability. Some homework will at times be formally marked, such as stories or projects but this is at the discretion of the teacher.

Areas such as spelling, Quran vocabulary will be tested and marked every week in class and this will be sent home for the parent to view.

This policy has been read and approved for Date Valley School, by the Headteacher and the Chair of Date Valley School Trust.

Date: May 2018

Appendix 1: Homework information.

Year 1

Children in year 1 do not get formal written homework during the first term and a half. Instead the focus is on the skills of mental maths, recognition of number bonds, handwriting practice and reading. The following timing for each activity is recommended

Time to be spent daily – 20 mins

English			
Reading (Alternate with Quran)	Spellings	Memorizing sight words	English written work (from the summer term)
10 mins daily	10 mins a week	5 mins at least 3 days a week	10 to 15 mins a week
Maths			
Practise number bonds / times tables	Maths written work (from the summer term)		
5 mins, 3 days a week.	10 to 15 mins a week		
Quran			
Quran vocabulary	Quran and Surah memorization		
5 mins, 3 days a week	10 mins, 3 days a week		

Children in Year 1 will sometimes get very simple project work. This will come with clear guidelines and is so that the parent can get involved in all areas of the curriculum. Project work will be given once a term and will entail some simple research / art work etc. Projects should take between 4 to 6 hours.

Year 2

Time to be spent daily – 30 mins

English			Maths		
Reading (Alternate with Quran)	Spellings	Memorizing sight words	English written work	Practise number bonds / times tables	Maths written work
10 mins daily	10 mins a week	5 mins daily	15 to 20 mins a week	5 mins daily	15 to 20 mins a week
Quran					
Quran vocabulary	Surah memorization				
5 mins, 3 days a week	10 mins, 3 days a week.				

Children in Year 2 will sometimes get very simple project work. This will come with clear guidelines and is so that the parent can get involved in all areas of the curriculum. Project work will be given once a term and will entail some simple research / art work etc. Projects should take between 6 to 8 hours.

Year 3

Time to be spent daily – 35 mins.

English		Maths	Quran
Spellings	English written work	Maths written work, Practise times tables / mental maths	Quran spellings, vocabulary and written work
15 mins a week	20 to 30 mins a week	20 to 30 mins a week	30 to 40 mins a week
Quran			
Surah memorization			
10 mins, 3 days a week			

Quran and English reading should be done daily, alternating each and spending a minimum of 15 mins per day. Time spent on reading is not included in the homework time.

A project will be set once a term. When children have a project, they will not be given any English or Maths homework. Projects should take between 8 to 10 hours.

Year 4

Time to be spent daily – 40 mins.

English		Maths	Quran
Spellings	English written work	Maths written work, Practise times tables / mental maths	Quran spellings, vocabulary and written work
15 mins a week	30 to 45 mins a week	30 to 45 mins a week	40 -50 mins a week
Quran			
Surah memorization			
10 mins, 3 days a week			

Both Quran and English reading should be done daily and time spent on reading is not included in the homework time.

A project will be set once a term. When children have a project they will not be given any English or Maths homework. Projects should take between 10 to 12 hours.

Year 5 to 6

Time to be spent daily – 50 mins.

English		Maths	Quran
Spellings	English written work	Maths written work, Practise times tables / mental maths	Quran spellings, vocabulary and written work
15 mins a week	30 to 45 mins a week	45 to 60 mins a week	50 to 60 mins a week
Quran			
Surah memorization			
10 mins daily			

Both Quran and English reading should be done daily and time spent on reading is not included in the homework time.

A project will be set once a term. When children have a project they will not be given any English or Maths homework. Projects should take between 12 to 15 hours.