



WEST VALE
ACADEMY

Homework Policy

Approved by:	LGB		
Responsible department:	West Vale Academy		
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School Aims and Implementation

It is the primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued, respected and that each person is treated fairly. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual respect for all in line with our equality policy.

West Vale Academy aims to provide children the opportunity to develop towards their full potential; academically, emotionally and socially:

- Providing the highest standard of education to enable children to acquire the skills, knowledge and concepts relevant to their future.
- Promoting an ethos of care, mutual respect and support, where effort is valued and success celebrated.
- Enabling children to become active, responsible and caring members of the school and wider community.

The school works towards these aims by:

- Promoting high quality learning and attainment.
- Providing a high quality learning entitlement and environment.
- Valuing each other and ourselves.
- Working in partnership with parents and the community

Homework Policy Introduction

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At West Vale Academy we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Maths and English.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Our routines and expectations

All classes give out weekly homework, the day in which it is sent out and due back is consistent across school. We hand half termly paper copies of homework tasks to ensure all children can engage with homework.

We set further educational activities on Seesaw, Spellingframe and TT Rockstars to promote the use of technology with developing children's skills.

West Vale Academy use CGP homework books for maths and SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar). The pages set each week will be a consolidation on what the children have been learning in class. The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.

Children and parents will have a given day that the homework is set each week and a day when it is handed in for marking.

In the weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

We provide an after school homework club which all children can sign up for and receive support and help with their homework from a school adult.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables. Parents should also look at requesting a place for their child at homework club if homework is becoming a stressful event at home.

The recommended amount of time we expect our children to spend on homework activities is as follows:

EYFS - 25 minutes per week

KS1 - 40 minutes per week

KS2 - 1 hour per week (more for Yr 5 and Yr 6)

We have produced the below timetable outlining our homework expectations for KS1/2:

Homework Piece	Expectation	Monitored by
English	2 pages of CGP Spelling, punctuation and grammar book.	Set teacher
Maths	2 pages of CGP maths.	Set teacher
Spelling	Spellingframe activity to help children practise next week words.	Set teacher
Times Tables	TT Rockstars games.	Class teacher

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine with a minimum of weekly English, Maths, Reading and Spelling/phonics tasks (see above)
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught and enhance the understanding of concepts
- To ensure homework supports the sequence of learning and long term planning.
- To promote homework club for children not completing this.
- To monitor homework return and communicate this to parents as part of parent consultation evenings when the return rate falls below our school expectations.