

SANDYE PLACE ACADEMY Homework Policy

Statement Document History

Issue	Date	Comment
1.0	September 2016	Ratified by Board of Trustees
1.1	September 2017	Ratified by Board of Trustees
1.2	July 2018	Ratified by Board of Trustees

Rationale

Our school believes that homework is an important part of every child's entitlement. However, in order for it to be effective, it should be consistently applied across and within year groups.

The purposes of setting homework must be clearly understood by the whole school community.

The purpose of homework at our school is:

- the consolidation of skills and knowledge taught at school
- parental awareness of the curriculum
- developing self-discipline and responsibility
- providing opportunity for independent learning

Homework should not:

- become a source of anxiety
- cause conflict in the home or conflict between home and school
- encourage children to copy material
- be completed by parents

In this policy we aim to set out clearly what we expect from members of staff, children and parents. We aim to establish a clear dialogue and open lines of communication so that any problems are quickly shared and addressed.



Content

Homework is set throughout the school.

Homework for every year group consists of:

- daily reading (20 minutes each evening)
- weekly spellings, number work/tables
- one specific task set to complement the week's current topics – a balance should be achieved across the term in relation to the subjects included and the types of activity
- it is expected that each term a slightly longer independent learning project will be set

The amount of homework set will increase by year group, but as a guide:

- KS2 children will be set homework at least three times a week in Year 5 – no more than 30 minutes in the evening. Year 6 will be set homework every evening – no more than 30 minutes every evening.
- KS3 children will be set homework every evening – no more than 40 minutes in Year 7 and no more than 1 hour in Year 8.

We encourage parents to use the home-school planner to communicate any difficulties their child might be having.

Although more than one teacher might set the homework for that week, it is expected that this will be coordinated so as to ensure that no child receives an unacceptable amount.

The tasks set might include:

- practising spellings, number work/tables – these must be linked to activities covered in class
- those designed to reinforce ideas that have been learned in class
- preparation or planning for a piece of writing
- applying an idea covered in school at home
- completing an independent learning project
- completing a problem-solving activity

We also invite parents to:

- encourage their children to read widely for at least twenty minutes each day and take them to the library
- encourage their children to participate in a variety of sports and leisure activities
- discuss the school day with their child

Differentiation

Consideration must be given to the child's ability when homework is set. Children with special educational needs must be given work that takes into account their individual needs and targets. Children who are more able should be given either open-ended tasks or ones that are more challenging than those given to the rest of the class.

In some cases, no written work may be needed as part of the task set. Instead it is acceptable to ask children to find out information, to watch a particular programme or complete some other speaking and listening activities.

Equal opportunities

It is important to keep in mind the balance of tasks set over the term and year. We will try to ensure that:

- tasks set require different skills, e.g. speaking and listening as well as reading and writing
- tasks are not only literacy and numeracy based but represent a balance across the curriculum
- tasks target the interests of both boys and girls over a period of time
- tasks set allow for the different resources pupils have at home and do not mean that some will be unable to complete them – if this is the case alternative arrangements should be made

What we expect from teachers

- To follow this homework policy and speak to a senior member of staff if they have any concerns about its implementation.
- Set homework for pupils on E-praise.
- All home-school planners must be checked at least once a week and appropriate responses made to any comments from parents.
- We expect teachers to convey a positive approach to homework setting and ensure that constructive feedback is given to help pupils progress.

What we expect from pupils

- We expect pupils to do their best to complete any homework set.
- We expect pupils to read and reflect on any feedback given.
- We expect pupils to ask the teacher if there is any aspect of their homework they do not understand.
- We expect pupils to be responsible for their home-school planner.



What we expect from parents

It is important that parents understand their role in supporting children with homework. This is explained in the school prospectus, home-school agreement and induction information.

Home-school planners are used to communicate with parents. Parents should sign the allocated space to indicate that it has been completed and/or make a comment where further explanation is needed.

Contact with parents about homework should reinforce our view that homework is a positive learning opportunity and not a cause of anxiety.

We ask that parents:

- provide a suitable space where children can study, write and read without interruption
- encourage good working habits and routines around the completion of homework
- let us know if any problems emerge with the completion of homework
- ensure that the homework along with the home-school planner is returned promptly on Monday morning

Feedback to Children

Homework is marked every week and on occasions an extended comment will be made. Children should be given time to read comments and respond themselves.

Monitoring

- Every term a sample of home-school planners will be selected from each class and feedback given.
- During the spring term Heads of English and Mathematics engaged in observations will be asked to include a comment on the homework set in their subject.
- Each Head of Year is responsible for overseeing the effective implementation of this policy across their year group.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the senior leadership team in consultation with the school community.