

BURLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Aims of Policy

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at Burley Primary School.
- To identify our shared views of good practice.
- To establish how homework will be organised and how we ensure progression across the school.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- To make clear the ways in which we aim to ensure that the policy makes an important contribution to the quality of teaching and learning in the school.

Definition

At Burley Primary School we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

Purpose

The purpose of homework at Burley Primary School is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Finally, it aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

Good practice

At Burley Primary School, we believe that the following principles underly good practice.

- That staff, parents and governors are involved in developing the policy and that it is a process which takes place over time and results in the completion of a written guidance document.
- The policy is co-ordinated by a senior member of staff.
- A variety of approaches are used to ensure that parents and children are aware of homework expectations and organisation.
- These can include meetings, booklets etc.
- Homework allocations are made clear.
- Homework is set in a structured way to help children develop regular study patterns (with parental help if needed).
- There is regular feedback and praise for completed work.
- The reasons why homework has not been completed are investigated with parents.
- In planning homework, teachers set appropriate tasks with clear intentions.
- There is a clear system for monitoring how the policy requirements are being fulfilled.
- The policy is reviewed regularly.

Range of Activities

A variety of tasks are used to meet planned learning objectives. These can include:

- Speaking and listening activities
- Reading
- Spelling and word investigations

- Book reviews
- Reading comprehension
- Independent research
- Practical maths investigations
- Collecting items linked to a theme
- Skills practice across a range of areas
- Data collection
- Educational games
- Online learning

Organisation

Progression is planned from Reception to Key Stage Two through the provision of appropriate activities and the increasing expectations we have of our children as they move up through the school.

In Wagtails, children are expected to complete a task or activity linked to the class topic, which lasts for around 10 minutes. This will include sound work and daily reading.

In Robins, children are expected to read for around 10 minutes and practise their weekly spellings each day. In addition they complete one 20 minute task per week.

In Kestrels, there is an expectation to read for around 15 minutes and practise spellings daily, along with the completion of two 15 minute tasks per week.

As children move into upper Key Stage Two, they are expected to take increasing responsibility themselves for the completion of their homework.

In Year Five, there is a minimum expectation of 20 minutes, 3 times per week on individual reading (or to an adult if this is appropriate), practising spellings and the completion of two to three 20 – 30 minute tasks which per week will include English and Maths. This may also include finishing class work.

In Year Six, there is a minimum expectation of 20 minutes, 3 times per week on individual reading (or to an adult if this is appropriate), practising spellings and the completion of three to four 20 – 30 minute tasks which per week will include English and Maths. This may also include finishing class work.

The children usually asked to present homework in their homework books. Class teachers will decide if it is acceptable to word process a piece of homework. Generally homework is expected to be handwritten by the child and of a good standard of presentation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Class teachers will plan purposeful activities with clear learning intentions, which are linked to the curriculum content. They will respond to children's efforts, providing encouragement and reward and will investigate the reasons for homework not being completed.

Parents have an important role in supporting children's efforts. They need to be aware of what homework is set and provide both encouragement and an appropriate environment for its completion.

Children are responsible for completing tasks as requested (with increasing independence as they move through the school) and to take responsibility for organising any information or equipment they require.

Responding to children and ensuring that homework is completed

In Wagtails, children are given praise and acknowledgement for completing homework to an acceptable standard. If there are problems completing activities, teachers will discuss with parents.

In KS1, children are also rewarded with Class Dojos and given frequent encouragement. Good examples of completed recorded tasks are shared with the class. Records are kept of work completed. Any problems arising are discussed with parents.

In Kestrels, children who complete their homework are praised in class and there is regular encouragement. Parents are informed if a child regularly fails to complete their homework.

In Year Five and Six, children completing homework are praised and outstanding examples of extra effort are rewarded. Parents are informed if a child regularly fails to complete homework.

Special arrangements

Class teachers will ensure that tasks are set which are appropriate to meet the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs as well as those requiring further challenge.

Monitoring and Evaluation

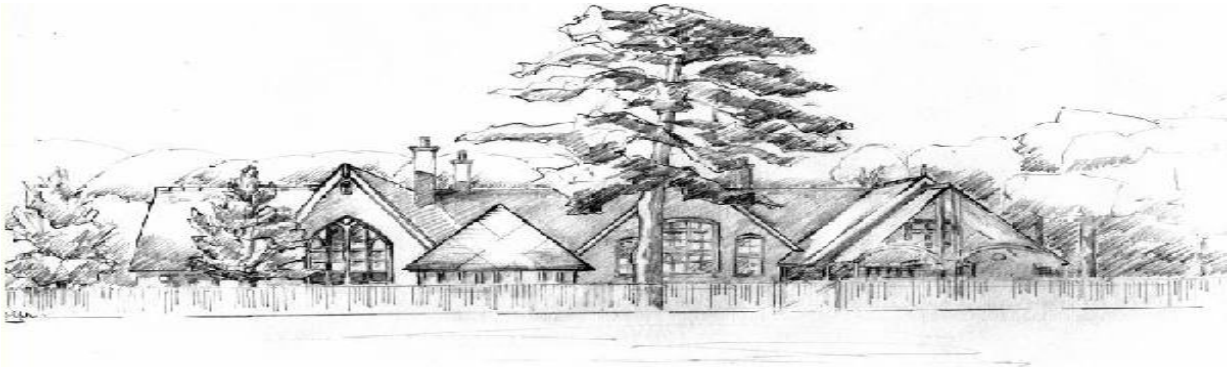
In order to ensure that the policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning the provision of homework will be regularly monitored. A sample of Homework Books will be reviewed by the Assistant Headteacher annually as part of the school's self-evaluation process. In addition, the scrutiny of homework samples will form part of curriculum leader's monitoring responsibilities at the allocated phase of the School Improvement Plan.

Parents will also be given opportunities to share their views with teachers at parent consultations and other occasions as appropriate.

Adopted by Curriculum and Standards Committee: January 2016

Review Date: Spring Term 2018

The policy was developed in consultation with teaching staff and a representative selection of parents and governors.



**BURLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK
A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING YOUR
CHILD**

The purpose of this booklet is to help you support your child's learning in partnership with us at Burley Primary School.

What is Homework?

At Burley Primary School we view homework as being a supported or independent task which is undertaken outside of curriculum time and which reinforces, extends, or enriches current learning.

Why is it set?

The purpose of homework at Burley Primary School is to:

- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in children's learning.
- Enable children to practise and consolidate skills.
- Broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension.
- Enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, become more independent and develop perseverance.

How you can help:

- Provide a quiet area where your child can work. It can be helpful to switch off the TV to aid concentration.
- Offer your help and support for younger children to complete tasks.
- Expect older children to work independently, but make it clear that you are there if needed.
- Encourage your child to complete homework on the day set, as the task will have just been explained. If they leave it until the day before it is due in, they may find that they need resources that they do not have to hand. The setting of homework several days in advance enables children to develop skills in organising their time. Younger children will need your support in moving towards this.
- Take an interest in the homework and encourage your child to take a pride in the presentation of written tasks. Work should be handwritten by your child in pencil or a suitable handwriting pen, unless directed otherwise by your child's class teacher.

What does it look like?

Homework involves a range of activities including the following:

- Speaking and listening tasks
- Spelling and word investigations
- Independent research
- Collecting items linked to a theme
- Collecting data
- Reading
- Book reviews
- Maths
- Investigations
- Skills practice
- Educational games

What should my child be doing?

At Burley Primary School we have the following expectations for amount of homework in each class:

Class	Homework Requirement	
Woodpeckers	Year 6	20 minutes, 3 times per week on individual reading (or to an adult if this is appropriate), practising spellings and the completion of three to four 20 – 30 minute tasks which per week will include English and Maths. This may also include finishing class work.
	Year 5	20 minutes, 3 times per week on individual reading (or to an adult if this is appropriate), practising spellings and the completion of two to three 20 – 30 minute tasks which per week will include English and Maths. This may also include finishing class work.
Kestrels	Read for around 15 minutes and practise spellings daily, along with the completion of two 15 minute tasks per week.	
Robins	Read for around 10 minutes and practise their weekly spellings each day. In addition they complete one 20 minute task per week.	
Wagtails	Complete a task or activity linked to the class topic, which lasts for around 10 minutes. This will include sound work and daily reading.	

What do I do if I have a query?

If your child has a problem completing the homework or you have any questions, please call in and see the class teacher. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem. Your support in the process is vital for children's success in developing self-study skills as they move on up through the school.

We hope that this information has been helpful. Further information about our approach to homework can be found in our homework policy document which is available at the school. Please ask at the school office.