POLICY

For

Homework

May 2019	September 2022	September 2025
September 2020	September 2023	
September 2021	September 2024	

Striving for excellence, caring for all
Within a loving and caring Christian environment.

Our Vision

We are a community in which everyone is offered the opportunity to fulfil their full potential, to understand themselves and be valued for who they are. Through a stimulating and challenging learning environment, we pursue academic excellence and seek the flourishing of all. This is because we know we are all God's children.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."

John Wesley

Introduction

Homework is any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. We believe that a partnership between home and school will enhance the learning of each individual child by promoting enthusiasm for acquiring knowledge and supporting positive attitudes to learning. Homework features as an important part of our Home School Agreement and is another way of supporting pupils to be the best they can.

At Abbey Academies Trust, we recognise the vital role parents and carers play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the value of home-school partnership, of which our homework policy is an important element.

As a RRS (Rights Respecting School – UNICEF) this upholds the following articles from the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child):

- **Article 17: Every child has the right to accurate information.**
- **Article 29: Every child has the right to be the best they can.**

This year we have once again reviewed our Homework Policy, including our systems and practices.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

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

The nature of homework

The nature of homework will change as pupils get older. For pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents and carers, and involving them actively in children's learning is a key objective.

Short activities of different kinds such as reading together and learning number facts provide a very important opportunity for pupils to talk about what they are learning to an adult, and to practise key skills in a supportive environment. As pupils get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning, which they will need to continue lifelong learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that pupils should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own. By the time pupils reach Year 6 their homework programme will cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content. This approach will benefit their learning and also ensure that, in relation to homework as much as to other aspects, their transition to Year 7 Secondary school is as smooth as possible.

Pupils in ALL age groups are expected to read regularly, ideally daily, at home.

When appropriate, homework will be differentiated to take account of individual pupils' needs and may include:

Home Reading

The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that pupils will read for pleasure daily in their own time. Pupils will be provided with a suitable school reading book, which can be taken home to read with a parent/carer or other adult. Pupils will also have a 'reading for pleasure' book, which may be beyond their own reading capabilities. This is for grown-ups at home to share with their child; **reading to children is just as vital as the children's own rehearsal even into upper Key Stage Two!** This reading can be recorded in a reading diary provided for parents/carers to sign and make comments when they have listened to or read to their child. Pupils in Upper Key Stage Two will be expected to take responsibility for their own reading books with the support of an adult to guide them to appropriate reading material when necessary.

Times tables and key number facts

From Year One upwards, pupils will be encouraged to consolidate their knowledge of key number facts and tables facts at home. This is supported by a number of apps including One Minute Maths, Numbots and Times Table Rock Stars. Fast recall of these facts plays an important foundation in the mathematics curriculum.







Palette of choice

The predominate form of homework which the children receive across school is in the 'palette of choice'. This has been designed by each year group to engage and stimulate the children in a wide range of creative and 'take care' pieces of homework linked to topics and the subjects being studied. The expectation of number of pieces of work and dates to be handed in will be made clear to pupils and parents/carers when the 'palette of choice' is given out. These tasks aim to encourage more individual flair and to enthuse the children with their learning and research, as well as give you fun and exciting opportunities to work together at home.

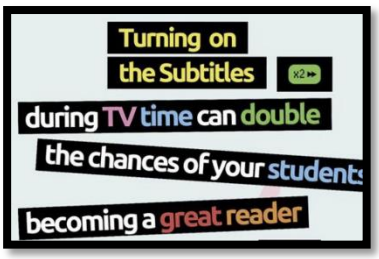
The 'palette of choice' homework approach fosters spirituality by encouraging creativity, individual expression, and meaningful engagement with learning topics. By offering diverse and stimulating tasks, it promotes self-discovery, reflection, and the opportunity for children to connect more deeply with their studies. This approach also encourages family involvement, enhancing a sense of community and shared purpose.

Additional homework

Particularly in Year 6, there will be occasions when pupils will receive specific maths and English related homework to consolidate or revise particular skills.

We also value support given to children at home by:

- Developing their research skills by providing suitable books, using the internet, helping them to find information and taking time to discuss topics concerned. This can include website and the internet (NB Safe internet use), or helping them to collect resources and artefacts.
- Promoting practical activities such as cooking, playing games and making things.
- Talking about the world around them and places they are visiting.
- Making good use of radio, television programmes which have learning opportunities eg Newsround, Planet Earth, BBC Bitesize.
- Being positive but selective about television viewing. When children are completing online learning or watching the television we encourage you to #turnonthesubtitles.







Rewards and Sanctions:

- All children will be praised appropriately for completing and handing homework in on time. This may include a house point/Dojos, a sticker, being chosen for achievement assembly or taking their homework to show another member of staff such as the Executive Head teacher, or Head of School.
- Opportunities will be given for children to complete homework at school within the school week before the homework is due to be handed in, should they find it difficult to complete it at home. Please let the class teacher know if your child would benefit from this opportunity.

Role of teacher:

- Teachers will establish a regular pattern for homework that parents/carers will be informed of including completion dates.
- They will ensure, as with all work, that homework is appropriately paced to suit all children.
- They will ensure that children are given feedback as to their progress.
- Teachers will inform parents/carers if a child regularly fails to do their homework.

Role of parent/carer:

- Parents/carers should ensure that children have a suitable place in which to do their homework.
- They should ensure that all tasks are completed in the timescale requested by the teacher.
- To be supportive to the child whilst completing homework.

Manageability

The homework programme is planned and managed by the class teacher so that demands on the pupils are even and balanced. Feedback on homework is given as soon as possible and a variety of strategies are employed in order to do this:

- Class discussion
- Tests
- Marking own work through dictated answers
- Individual comments
- Display
- Peer review

If pupils are absent from school because of illness then work will not normally be sent home. The assumption would normally be made that they are probably not well enough to work. It may happen that a pupil is off for a length of time, though is well enough to do some work at home, e.g. broken leg. In these circumstances the teacher and the parent/carer (and clinicians if appropriate), will agree what should be done, how it will be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances, the teacher should consult with the Year Leader/Class Teacher and they in turn will inform a member of the SLT and the SENCO.

Monitoring and Evaluating

The Homework Policy will be reviewed annually. Its effectiveness will be assessed by the extent to which the policy is contributing to the progress pupils make at school and their attitude to learning. A homework questionnaire will be sent to parents/carers every two years.