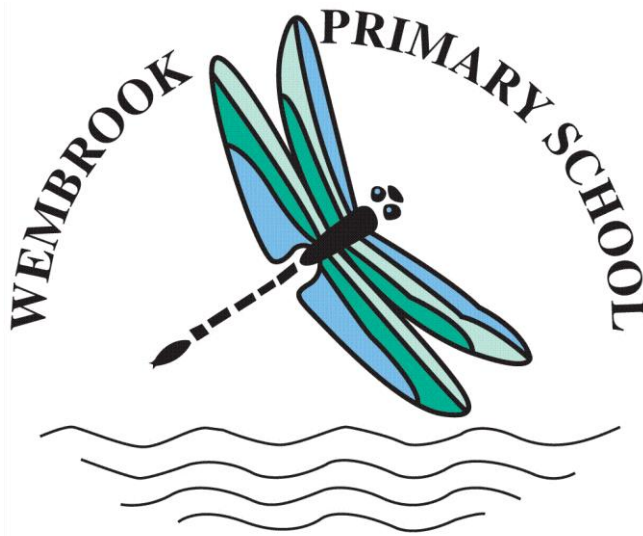


# Homework Policy



Signed:  
Headteacher

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Chair of Governors

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## Wembrook Primary School Homework Policy

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 Wembrook Primary School we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

### **Why give homework?**

- ✓ Form a firm partnership between parents and teachers in relation to children's learning;
- ✓ It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- ✓ It encourages responsibility for learning and independent learning
- ✓ It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as reading and times tables
- ✓ It takes advantage of the home environment and resources
- ✓ It can be a great source for gathering topic information
- ✓ It can inform parents about work going on in class and give an opportunity for one-to-one adult time
- ✓ It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

### **Homework at our school**

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Wembrook Primary School is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves. Children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However, discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

We can provide support, time and space in school for children to complete homework if they are unable to complete these activities at home. We are happy to discuss this provision with you.

### **Our expectations**

We encourage children to:

- ✓ Make their parents aware of any homework given by the teacher.
- ✓ Ask for help if it is needed.
- ✓ Complete homework to the best of their ability and maintain the same standards of presentation expected in the classroom.
- ✓ Ensure that homework is handed in on time if a deadline is given by the teacher.

We encourage parents to:

- ✓ Show a positive interest in homework; talk and ask questions.
- ✓ Help and support, but encourage independent thinking.
- ✓ Ensure children have the time and space to complete homework.
- ✓ Praise children for their efforts.
- ✓ Look at the home/school link book regularly and signing it to show parents are aware of the homework;
- ✓ writing a note to the teacher in the link book if there is any problem e.g. the child finds the work difficult, is taking too long, special reason for incomplete work, etc.

Teachers will:

- ✓ Explain the homework task and the learning purpose clearly.
- ✓ Set work at the appropriate level.
- ✓ Set deadlines if appropriate.
- ✓ Communicate with parents via the home/school link book or by letter;
- ✓ Use the merit system to reward children, who do their homework carefully and successfully;
- ✓ Be considerate when establishing time limits, to allow an element of choice, in case of out of school activities or unforeseen circumstances. All pupils will be given at least 4 nights to complete work and where possible 7 days, so that the pupils have a whole week to complete work including the weekend.

## Learning for life

These areas of learning are essential and should be encouraged and enjoyed at home:

- Talking - time for talking will encourage interest in learning, the conversations are endless!
- Reading - this may be sharing a book, reading aloud or listening to a story.
- Spelling - most children have spellings to learn on a weekly basis and they are often tested. Spelling is an important skill.
- Writing - children can enjoy practising writing at home. For example they could practise writing their name or the days of the week; they could practise their handwriting or write a fabulous story!
- Times Tables - this is the most important number skill that children can learn and practise at home. Times tables are often tested in school. Once children know their times tables they will be able to understand many other mathematical concepts and calculations.
- Number work - this may be counting, learning addition facts, subtraction facts, shapes, measures and playing games involving dice, cards and counters.
- Research - children may be asked to find out about areas of the curriculum that they are currently enjoying studying.
- Interactive Learning - children can access a range of interactive learning, including our online Maths and English activities.

## **How are Link Books used?**

Each child has a link book, which incorporates a homework diary. In early years this is more of a reading diary, and parents are encouraged to sign it when they hear their child read. When they are able, children will record their homework in their link book. We ask parents to read and sign this each week to show that they have seen it.

If there is a problem over homework parents should inform the teacher via the link book. Similarly the teacher will put a note in the link book if there is anything parents should be aware of.

## **How much homework should children be doing?**

- In line with government guidelines we expect young children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to read everyday to their parents or carers for 10-20 minutes depending on age and fluency.
- Homework for Years 1 and 2 should be about 1 hour per week.
- Homework for Years 3 and 4 should be about 1½ hours per week.
- Homework for Years 5 and 6 should be about 2½ hours per week.

## **Other information**

- Monitoring The setting, marking and monitoring of homework will usually be undertaken by the class teacher. In KS1 teacher assistants may spend time with the children each day, checking their reading folders. Within the school, phase leaders will monitor the homework policy.

Through a positive homework policy we aim to encourage a successful partnership between school, parents and pupils, and support learning so that each child achieves success