



Amherst School (Academy) Trust

Homework Policy

Policy Title	Homework Policy
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Policy Reference	
Function	For Information and Guidance
Status	Statutory
Audience	Parents, Governors, Headteacher, Teachers, Support Staff, the Department for Education
Ownership / Implementation	The Headteacher and the Governing Body have overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented.
Review Frequency	3 yearly
Date Approved by Governing Body	See below
Approved by Teaching & Learning Committee	April 2018
Date for Review	April 2021



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The Purpose of Homework

Following discussion with the staff, parents and governors, the purpose of homework at Amherst School is as follows:

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents to enhance the child's learning
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in reading, English and mathematics
- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study independently
- To prepare pupils for the next stage of their education

Guidelines

Homework should build upon work being done in the classroom. It should provide an opportunity for the child and parent to work together to enable the parent to see how their child is progressing and to appreciate any difficulties their child might be experiencing. It should provide an opportunity to extend the child's learning and enable them to use resources that they might have at home.

Homework should be set on a consistent basis with sufficient time allowed for completion of the task. Children must be given clear instructions about the activity to be undertaken. To aid this every child will be given a homework diary to record their homework in and to encourage them to become more independent and organised. The homework diary can also be used as a means of communication between the class teacher and parents. The homework diary is not expected to be signed by the parents or class teacher. If a parent has made a comment in a child's homework diary the child should make their teacher aware of the comment. Homework can also be found on each Year Group's page on the school website.

There is an expectation that homework will be completed within the set time and of a high standard of presentation.

It is essential that each year group within the school has a clear understanding of the expectations for that year group and that the three class teachers are consistent in what is sent home.



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Parents should be made aware of the expectations through the Year Group letter sent out at the beginning of the Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms and at parents' evening in Autumn Term.

Quantity of Work Set

The amount of time spent on homework each week should take account of the following:

- The child's home circumstances
- The child's ability and maturity
- The amount of time necessary to complete the given task

Work sent home should not be over-burdensome or lead to de-motivation or loss of confidence. Should this be the case, the teacher must discuss the matter with the parent and year group colleagues.

The following are the agreed maximum Homework Guidelines for Amherst School

Years 3 and 4 **Up to 1 hour 30 minutes each week**

Years 5 and 6 **Up to 30 minutes per day**

Homework could consist of the following:

- **Reading** – is the key to a child's success at school and their future life. The bulk of homework set in Key Stage 2 should encourage a good reading habit. All children should be encouraged to read for between 20 and 40 minutes per day depending upon age.
- **A termly spelling list**
- **Multiplication tables and number bonds**
- **Numeracy-** one / two mental arithmetic exercises depending upon the Year group or investigative/reinforcement work following on from a topic taught in class.
- **Literacy-** weekly literacy homework, which may include a range of the following activities: Spelling, punctuation and grammar exercises, book reviews, creative writing, dictionary and thesaurus work.
- **Research** for school activities such as topic work may be set once half termly. This can include use of the local library or internet as well as books available to the child at home.



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Occasionally work may be sent home to be finished if the child was unable to complete the task in the given time at school. However, this should be the exception rather than the norm.

Year Group Homework

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Reading-daily	Reading-daily	Reading-daily	Reading-daily
MA 1 page- weekly	MA 1 page- weekly	MA 2 pages- weekly	MA 2 pages- weekly
Spelling Practice	Spelling Practice	Spelling Practice	Spelling Practice
Literacy/Spelling	Literacy- weekly	Literacy- weekly	Literacy- weekly
Tables weekly	Tables weekly	Tables weekly	Tables weekly
Research-half termly	Research-half termly	Research-half termly	Research-half termly

Parent Consultations

Homework should be a point of discussion with parents at pupil consultations. Parents have varying views as to whether homework should or should not be set and about the amount of time their child should spend working at home. These views should be taken into account by the class teacher and a dialogue with the parent should enable any misunderstandings or levels of expectation to be clarified.

Planning, Preparation, Differentiation and Marking

All of the above should be considered when setting homework. However, the work set should not become a burden for the class teacher who already has their daily routine to deal with.

April 2018