



# Lancaster Road Primary School

## Homework Policy

At Lancaster Road School, staff recognise that children who have spent a busy, structured day at school need to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out of school activities such as sports and clubs.

However we recognise the benefits of homework if this is introduced gradually over the primary years so that children develop as independent learners.

### **The Purpose of Homework**

Homework should:

- ensure that children make the best possible progress and grow as confident, independent learners;
- help parents to keep in touch with their children's learning and promote an effective partnership between home and school;
- promote a positive attitude to learning if parents show an interest and enjoy working with their children;
- give children an opportunity to practice and reinforce skills which have been taught in school;
- prepare children for the demands and expectations of future phases of education.

### **The Aims of the Policy**

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure the needs of the individual children are taken into account;
- ensure that pupils and parents know what to expect;
- extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision;
- provide opportunities for parents to enjoy learning together.

### **Time Allocation**

The exact time spent on homework will vary. Individual ability must also be taken into account. In general the amount of time to be spent on homework will increase as the child moves through school.

### **Role of the Pupils**

Children are expected to:

- listen carefully to the instructions given;
- complete homework to the best of their ability;
- bring their reading books/ bags to school every day.

## **Role of Parents**

We recognise that parents have a key role in supporting children's homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older but an interested adult is always important. Parents can support our policy by:

- providing a suitable place for homework activities;
- making it clear that they value homework and ensuring books from school are returned;
- encouraging and praising children for their efforts;
- completing the reading diary as appropriate;
- not using homework as a threat or punishment;
- contacting the teacher if there are any concerns about homework.

## **Role of Teachers**

The teacher will:

- set homework which is appropriate to the age and ability of each child;
- give a clear explanation of work to be completed at home;
- give suitable guidance to parents where necessary;
- give recognition and praise to children for their efforts;
- feedback to children as appropriate.

## **Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Setting the right amount of homework for children with SEN will need careful consideration by teachers, the SENCo and parents. The purposes of homework apply equally to all pupils, including those with SEN. Whilst SEN pupils may benefit from special tasks appropriate to their needs.

Homework for SEN pupils should:

- give plenty of opportunities for children to succeed;
- help to develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- be manageable for teachers.

## **The Type of Homework**

Learning at home does not just mean completing worksheets. Children need to participate in purposeful, activities with an interested parent. Talking together, playing games, reading together, learning facts, browsing the internet, using Lexia, Espresso and RM Easimaths are all important.

It is particularly important that parents spend time speaking and listening to their children. As children get older there should be opportunities for children to develop the skills of independent learning.