



Charles Dickens Primary School

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Home Learning Policy

School ethos: Creativity and excellence are at the heart of everything we do at Charles Dickens Primary School. Children are encouraged to work to the best of their abilities. However, we also want them to have lots of fun along the way. In order to enrich our exciting and diverse curriculum, we offer a continually expanding range of first hand learning experiences and extra-curricular activities, tailored to meet the needs of children at different stages of their school career. We believe that it is important that our classrooms look and feel vibrant and alive and that the creativity exudes from our displays and the presentations and performances of our children. All our children will always make or exceed national expectations of progress and all the staff will support their determination and ambition with outstanding teaching. Through every strand of school life, we aim to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of every child, alongside the academic, to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and challenges that life offers.

This policy is intended to ensure that:

- Home learning helps inform parents about learning going on in class;
- Home learning offers further stimulation and enthusiasm for learning;
- Home learning encourages opportunities to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spelling, handwriting and key facts;
- Home learning helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school.

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

Expectations

- We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned. We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines
- 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 home learning registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents. Children in KS2 who do not read at home are encouraged to catch up with their reading during break times.
- We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of home learning as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black/blue pen.

Organisation

- All classes give out weekly homework on a Friday and it is returned to school by the following Wednesday. The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home. As far as possible, homework will be related to class topics. This is important as it helps parents to know more about what is going on in class and to support enthusiasm for learning.
- Our additional needs teachers and support staff may send specific tasks home to support the learning of the children they support. Again, this will be discussed with parents.

- Home learning is marked or reviewed (as appropriate) by the class teacher and the class teaching assistant. Every third week, each child's learning is marked and reviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers)
- If you take holiday during term-time, *something we actively discourage*, parents may **not** request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.

What parents should do if they have concerns:

- If parents find the homework inappropriate for their child, if the child lacks interest, if it becomes a battleground or if the parent is concerned that homework is given inconsistently, parents should talk with the child's teacher in the first instance.
- If you still have concerns, please talk with the Headteacher.

Expectations:

Nursery: Sharing books and communicating experiences and learning at home with school via the Home Learning Journal

Reception:

- Daily reading of school reading book with pages and feedback noted in the yellow reading record
- Daily learning phonics sound cards
- A Home Learning Journal is used in the Autumn term to capture achievements and experiences. In the spring and summer term, an English, maths or topic task is completed alongside the parent.

Year 1 and 2:

- Daily reading of school reading book with pages and feedback noted in the yellow reading record.
- Maths - this is set via the mathletics website and each child has a unique username and password.
- English and Topic- a practical and creative task is set via the home learning journal. These tasks may involve some writing and many will involve paired work between parents and children.

Years 3 and 4 :

- Daily reading of school reading book with pages and feedback noted in the yellow reading record.
- Maths - this is set via the mathletics website and each child has a unique username and password.
- English and Topic- a practical and creative task is set via the home learning journal. These tasks may involve some writing.
- Children are also encouraged to practice their times tables in preparation for their weekly test.

Year 5/6

- Daily reading of school reading book with pages and feedback noted in the yellow reading record.
- Maths - this is set via the mathletics website and each child has a unique username and password.
- English and Topic- a practical and creative task is set via the home learning journal. These tasks may involve some writing.
- 10 weekly spellings linked to patterns learnt in the week.
- Children are also encouraged to practice their times tables in preparation for their weekly test.

How are we ensuring that we are being successful?

- The vast majority of pupils are completing their tasks to a high standard and on time
- Each year the school will issue a parent questionnaire with questions related to the appropriateness of home learning set for their child.
- Parents are encouraged to feedback to individual teachers.

Reviewed: 22nd October 2013

By: Cassie Buchanan (Headteacher)