



Warwick Preparatory School



Homework Policy

Last Review: Autumn 2018

Next Review: Summer 2021

Responsible: Deputy Head

[THIS POLICY IS AVAILABLE TO ALL PARENTS BY REQUEST]

TABLE OF CONTENTS	page
1. Introduction	2
2. Aims	2
3. Rationale	3
4. Homework tasks	3
5. Homework timetable (including Project Fortnight)	4
6. Holiday homework	6
7. Recording homework	7
8. Homework rewards and sanctions	7
9. Equal opportunities	7
10. Monitoring and review	7

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Warwick Preparatory School’s homework policy applies to all children in the school including EYFS. We acknowledge there will be differences of approach between the age groups, and where possible, this is covered in this policy
- 1.2 The school expects all parents to support this policy and work with their child/children as required to ensure learning opportunities are capitalised and experiences for pupils are positive and encouraging.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 Warwick Preparatory School’s aim is to inspire each girl and boy to be the best that they can be within a happy, safe and stimulating environment by providing an education of the highest quality delivered by a team of dedicated, professional and caring staff.
- 2.2 To achieve this aim the school will:
- Maintain a well ordered and supportive community in which every child can feel secure, grow in self-confidence and find their own voice;
 - Offer breadth, balance and challenge in all aspects of education: intellectual, aesthetic, physical, moral and spiritual;

- Encourage individuality, initiative, creativity, independence and enquiry. □ Inspire a positive and committed attitude to learning;
- Promote respect for others and encourage responsible behaviour and attitudes within a Christian ethos.

3. RATIONALE

- 3.1 At Warwick Prep we believe that homework should enhance pupil learning, improve achievement, foster confidence, develop independent learning skills and promote the core aims of our school. For this reason, homework is an integral part of the curriculum.
- 3.2 Homework is the work that is set outside curriculum time. At Warwick Prep, homework is set to encourage independent study, but for younger children who are learning and developing these skills, parental input and support is often required. All pupils are expected to read to an adult regularly.
- 3.3 Not all homework will be completed at home as some children may complete homework during the school's After School Care provision. In addition, some tasks may require resources (books, software, equipment) which are more readily available at school, so older pupils may wish to capitalise on these resources within their own time or through using the library at school.
- 3.4 Staff are required to plan homework tasks carefully to support children's learning and promote a love of learning within each scheme of work and curriculum area. The homework that is set should therefore be differentiated, manageable and effectively integrated into the planning. There are high expectations of children in completing homework and there is a regular programme set so that everyone – teachers, children and parents, know what to expect each week. (See Appendix A).
- 3.5 The main priorities and purpose in setting homework at Warwick Preparatory School is to:
- Support the school's aims in fostering a wide range of skills and characteristics which pupils need to prepare themselves for a life in the 21st century;
 - Consolidate, reinforce, check and extend knowledge and skills developed within the classroom;
 - Prepare for further learning;
 - Encourage children to develop the confidence, skills and motivation to study independently;
 - Encourage individuality, initiative, creativity, independence and enquiry;
 - Exploit the resources of the home setting and, where required, those within school;
 - Help parents to feel involved in their child's learning.

4. HOMEWORK TASKS

- 4.1 Responsibility for setting homework lies with the member of staff who teaches the subject. All teachers are expected to provide clear instruction as to the activities that are to be completed (providing written information as appropriate). Deadlines for completion should be indicated when setting homework. Teachers who set homework are expected to ensure pupils have recorded the information appropriately in their Planner.
- 4.2 Homework tasks may cover a wide range of activities:
- Phonics and pre-reading skills
 - Reading
 - Learning spelling
 - Language vocabulary work
 - Practising multiplication tables / bonds
 - Preparing presentations
 - Revision
 - Written exercises / tasks
 - Interactive activities
 - Project work
 - Specific preparation for an upcoming event
- 4.3 Other activities at home may also be required in order to promote children's learning and development, such as learning support homework, music practice (where individual or small group tuition takes place), LAMDA preparations, preparations for key events etc.

5. HOMEWORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The school has a set homework timetable, which responds to children's age and expected levels of independence. This is published in Pupil Planners. An overview of the current schedule / time allocation given to different subject areas is included in Appendix A.
- 5.2 At Warwick Prep we recognise that children should, as well as completing their school work, experience a whole range of activities. We wholeheartedly support and encourage the co-curriculum and have taken this into account when devising the homework timetable. We aim to support and foster well-rounded and balanced children who have the freedom to undertake after school clubs and activities; attend sporting fixtures and experience sporting, musical and creative pursuits.

5.3 We also value reading; it is the key which unlocks children’s access to learning. We therefore allocate reading time to pupils every night until the end of Year 4. We expect all children to read from a book, discuss it and keep a systematic reading log.

5.4 Children are also allocated weekly spellings to learn from Year 1 upwards. The latter will also have a spelling journal to support their learning of spelling strategies and rules.

5.5 As children progress through the school, they are given increased responsibility for managing their time. In Upper School, not all homework will be required for the following day; this allows pupils to develop time-management and organisation skills whilst balancing their school work with other co-curricular responsibilities and opportunities. We believe this is good preparation for secondary school.

5.6 In order to develop, encourage and foster individuality, creativity, independent research skills, enquiry and initiative, children from Year 1 upwards enjoy a ‘Project Fortnight’. During this time, pupils are given a topic (often based on an area of the curriculum linked to Humanities or Science) to complete using a specific brief. Guidance and support is given by the member of staff who sets the task but children are encouraged to make their own choices as to how to present their work and to manage their time within a two-week period. During Project Fortnight, the standard homework timetable is dismissed, with the exception of reading, spelling and times table practice.

5.7 Dates for Project Fortnight are planned in advance and are included on the school calendar:

- Year 3: 2-week block each term
- Year 4: 2-week block each term
- Year 5: 2-week block in the Autumn term and Spring term
- Year 6: 2-week block in Autumn term

5.8 Homework will be set throughout each school term. The table below details beginning and end of term homework setting arrangements.

*spellings may be set during this week for testing during the second full week.

Autumn Term	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
First day of term	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Second day of term	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓
First full week of term	Phonics	X*	X*	X*	X*	✓	✓
Second week of term	Homework Timetable						
Project Fortnight	Normal schedule			Reading & Spelling, Times Tables			
Last week of term	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Spring Term	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
First day of term	Homework Timetable Resumes						
Project Fortnight	Normal schedule			Reading & Spelling, Times Tables			No Project
Last week of term	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Summer Term	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
First day of term	Homework Timetable Resumes						
Project Fortnight	Normal schedule			Reading & Spelling, Times Tables		No Project	
Last week of term	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

5.9 Co-ordinators are responsible for setting up the homework timetable in accordance with the requirements of this policy.

6. HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

6.1 All children at Warwick Prep enjoy a fulfilling, busy and engaging school term. The holidays are therefore well earned and we believe it is important for children to ‘rest and refresh’ over the holiday so that they return to school re-energised ready for the new term and the demands that are placed upon them.

6.2 For this reason, holiday work that is set is limited to:

- Providing guidance to parents (in the form of a one-page document) which offers ideas which support learning outside the classroom, i.e. games, practical activities and outdoor visits to develop skills;
- Encouraging children to read regularly throughout all holidays;
- Using a spelling and reading guide of suggested activities for Year 3 to 6 pupils;
- Bespoke and supportive work for those children who would benefit from extra practice in key skills. This will have been discussed with parents in advance;
- Exercises set by the Learning Support Department designed to support children on the SEN-D register;
- Mathematics, English and reasoning tasks for those students about to sit entrance exams. Pupils are strongly encouraged to complete these activities but completion is at the discretion of parents.
- Completion of a holiday diary that they can share at school and with the Deputy Head. A certificate will be awarded for all completed holiday projects.

6.3 Parents who wish to provide more formal activities for their child are encouraged to purchase material from stockists such as WH Smith, who offer a wide range of age-related Maths, English, Verbal Reasoning and Non-verbal Reasoning work books.

6.4 Holiday homework that is set will be set on the last Friday of each term, unless the last day of term is a Friday in which case homework will be set on the previous Friday.

7. RECORDING HOMEWORK

7.1 Homework is recorded in each pupil's Planner. Staff in the Pre-Prep department normally write information in the planner. As children progress towards the end of Year 2, they may be encouraged to start recording homework activities independently. Pupils in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to record their homework independently on entry into Year 3.

8. HOMEWORK REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

8.1 Pupils are rewarded for good homework in line with the school's reward system.

8.2 Pupils who persistently struggle to meet the school's expectations for homework will be supported by putting appropriate measures in place to develop strategies which encourage improvement. Parents will be involved as appropriate.

9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

9.1 In line with the school's responsibility to cater for the needs, abilities and interests of all pupils, homework activities will be adjusted to ensure full inclusion and take into account children's different learning styles. Tasks will be differentiated by teachers as appropriate to the needs of individuals. Differentiation can be interpreted as setting different tasks, recording information in different ways, or working with more / less structure but not be giving more work.

10. MONITORING AND REVIEW

10.1 This policy is monitored by the Headmistress and Deputy Head. It will be reviewed every three years.

Policy Reviewed: Autumn 2018
Date of next Review: Summer 2021
DA 20.9.18

APPENDIX A – HOMEWORK TIMETABLE

Nursery

No formal homework. Occasional, fun, reinforcement activities.

Weekly library book (from February half term)

Reception

Reading, introductory phonics, reading books, weekly library book

Literacy or maths: Letter and number formation practice and dictation (from January onwards, for those children who are ready)

Lower School

Reading: Monday – Thursday (15/20 minutes) and weekly library book

Year 1: dictation and maths game at the weekend

Year 2: spelling, maths activity or written topic based activity at the weekend.

Prep School – 2-week rotation timetable (Learning Support work set as required).

Year 3 Maths x 3 (20 mins)
 English x 3 (20 mins)
 Regular reading x3 (10 mins) and extended reading x 2 (20 mins)
 Humanities / Topic work x 2 (30 mins)
 Spellings and Times Tables (weekly)

Year 4 Maths x 3 (30 mins)
 English x 3 (30 mins)
 Regular reading x3 (10 mins)
 Science x 2 (30 mins)
 Humanities / Topic work x 2 (30 mins)
 Spellings and Times Tables (weekly)

Year 5 Maths x 3 (45 mins)
 English x 3 (45 mins)
 Science x 2 (40 mins)
 MFL x 2 (20 mins)
 Spellings and Times Tables (weekly)
 Regular reading

Year 6 Maths x 3 (45 mins)
 English x 3 (45 mins)
 Science x 2 (40 mins)
 MFL x 2 (30 mins)
 Spellings and Times Tables (weekly)
 Regular reading
 PSDP x 2 (60 mins) Spring Term
 Maths x 2 (45 mins) Spring Term
 English x 2 (45 mins) Spring Term