



The Whiteoak Academies of Hannah More Infants and Grove Juniors

## HOMWORK POLICY

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**Planting Dreams. Nurturing Hears. Growing Minds.**

*'From little acorns, mighty oaks do grow.'*

## **Introduction**

As a family of schools, we recognise that homework can play an important role in supporting a child's progress and attainment. We also understand its value in helping to promote a positive partnership between children, parents and teachers with the aim of raising standards of achievement and maximising educational opportunity.

This policy has been written to support the vision, values and aims of our school.

## **Aims and Purpose of Homework**

At the Whiteoak academies, we recognise that there are many different views about the homework set at primary school and that families lead increasingly busy lives. We set homework in the hope that it will support each child to be the best they can be and help to develop strong and effective home-school partnerships.

The aims of homework at the Whiteoak Academies are:

- To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to class work.
- To provide opportunity for the child to practise what has been learnt in class, including the development of the basic skills e.g. times tables, handwriting, vocabulary, independent research skills etc.
- To provide a practical opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child.
- To help promote adult-child conversations about their learning, supporting new learning, ideas and vocabulary development.
- To develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline children need to study independently and prepare them for the requirements of the next stage in their learning and life.
- To foster curiosity and promote a love of lifelong learning.

## **Organisation of Homework**

Homework is not necessarily written work. It is any task that a child is asked to complete at home. It may consist of reading, learning by heart and reinforcement of school work, research and project work or further practice of skills learnt in class.

At the Whiteoak Academies, homework activities are planned to meet the needs of the children; support and consolidate the activities in class and provide positive reinforcement of the work done in school. Therefore, there is an expectation that children complete all given homework and hand it in on time, when appropriate. However, we do not wish for homework to become over burdensome for children and a deterrent to learning. Therefore, it is imperative that if you feel homework is making your child unhappy or you perceive any difficulties at all, you contact your child's class teacher to discuss this further.

## Overview of Homework

The table below aims to give clear guidance regarding the amount and type of homework usually expected:

Year Group	Total Time	Reading	Maths	Retrieval Practice
Reception	Up to 1 hour	Daily & Phonics	Counting forwards and backwards in every day contexts and number formation	
Year 1	Up to 1 hour	Daily & Phonics	Number facts & Numbots	Weekly
Year 2	Up to 1 hour and 30 minutes	Daily	Number facts & Numbots	Weekly
Year 3	Up to 1 hour and 30 minutes	Daily	Times Tables & TTRS	Weekly
Year 4	Up to 2 hours	Daily	Times Tables & TTRS	Weekly
Year 5	Up to 2 hours	Daily	TTRS & targeted Maths	Weekly
Year 6	Up to 2 hours and 30 minutes	Daily	TTRS & targeted Maths	Weekly

Specific details of homework expectations are detailed by the Class Teachers on the Class Pages of the website. As children develop and move through our family of schools, we also increase the amount of homework that we give.

Please note that if a child is taken out of school for a holiday, staff will not set homework. Instead, children will be encouraged to read and practice number work while they are away.

## **The importance of Reading**

*“Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are often the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it’s that simple.”* Bali Rai, author

As a family of schools, we recognise that reading is a vital life skill that helps children to be successful both in school and throughout their lives. It not only allows children to access the breadth of the curriculum and improve their communication and language, it can also be a fun and imaginative time that opens doors to all kinds of new worlds.

At the Whiteoak Academies, we recognise that a vital element of reading is reading for pleasure and reading together. Therefore, we ask that children read both the school books provided and books that they have chosen for themselves or that you have chosen to share with them. We ask that all children, regardless of age, read aloud to an adult and discuss and share ideas about the text at least 3 to 4 times a week. We also ask that you read aloud to your children as the skill of reading and discovering a love of reading often stems from this time with you. Indeed, through hearing stories, children build and improve their listening skills as well as their vocabulary and understanding, which is vital as they start to read and develop their skills as a reader.

## **Maths**

As a school, we predominantly set Maths homework through Numbots and Times Tables Rock Star (TTRS). However, children may be set additional Maths homework dependent on their needs, curriculum demands and the objectives being covered in class.

## **Children with Special Educational Needs**

At the Whiteoak Academies, we set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the current attainment of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. Sometimes children with particular needs will be set different homework that is more relevant to their learning. Children with SEND sometimes need to over learn and small amounts of daily practice are often essential.