***Ashdon Primary School***

***Homework Policy***

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| **Headteacher**  | Marné Reynecke-Raybould |
| **Approved by Governors**  | 10/10/2024 |
| **Policy’s next review date** | 09/10/2027 |
| **Chair of Governors** | Rev. Brenda Brundritt |

**SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

Ashdon Primary School takes seriously the responsibility to protect the welfare of the children in its care, believing that “The welfare of the child is paramount” Children Act 1989.

This policy plays an integral part in our aim to safeguard the children and ensure their wellbeing in order to promote optimum development.

**Aims**

Through this policy we aim to:

* Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
* Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
* To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
* Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
* Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children’s learning.
* Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
* Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
* To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in mathematics and English.
* Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
* To help prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to high school.

**The Nature of Homework**

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

* The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil’s school career.
* Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
* Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
* It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
* Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

**Recommended Time Allocation**

Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables. The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 - 1.5 hours per week

**Homework Tasks**

Listed below are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

In *Foundation Stage* these may include:

* Reading books and key words.
* Mathematics activities.
* A project related to their curriculum topic.
* Independent activities, such as reciting nursery and counting rhymes, identification of shapes in the environment, counting up and down stairs and fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces.

In *Year 1 to 6* these may include:

* Reading.
* English activities, including spellings.
* Mathematics activities, including maths games and learning times tables.
* Completing research or a project related to their curriculum topic.

**Role of the Class Teacher**

* To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
* To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
* To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the cohort/Phase.
* To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
* To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
* To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
* To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils.
* To make the Headteacher aware of any pupils not completing 5 or more pieces of homework.

**Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body**

* To check compliance of the policy.
* To send a standardised letter to parents when their child does not complete 5 pieces of homework within a term.
* To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
* To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
* Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

**Role of Parents/Carers**

* To sign a home/school agreement dealing with homework.
* To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
* To try and provide a suitable place and equipment for their child to carry out their homework.
* To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
* To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
* To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
* Ensure homework is completed and returned to school in the timescale set by the class teachers.

At Ashdon Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. We promote this collaborative approach through homework projects and regular reading at home. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

**Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities**

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Ashdon Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

**General**

* If children are absent due to illness, we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
* If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher may consult the Headteacher first.
* Teachers are not required to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
* Parents/carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child’s class teacher.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the staff and Governing Body of the school, or sooner if deemed appropriate.

 **Signed:** 

 **(Chair of Governors) Date: 10th October 2024**