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**Homework Policy**

**Introduction**

At Watchorn Christian School we really value the input of parents in their children’s education. We believe that parents are the children’s ‘primary educator’ and it is important that they are fully informed of their children’s learning needs, in order to support and encourage them.

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents and carers. The school will ensure that pupils’ needs are taken into consideration when homework is set and ensure that parents/guardians have a clear understanding of the school's expectations about their involvement in homework. The school will also ensure that there is a consistent approach to the setting of homework.

At Watchorn Christian School we understand the importance of children having time to spend with their family after school, to unwind and to take part in extracurricular activities; therefore we work with parents to keep homework manageable.

**Purpose of homework:**

We believe that homework enables each child to:

• actively involve their parents or other carers in their learning.

• consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy,

• extend school learning,

• take advantage of learning resources which may be available at home.

**Aims of the policy:**

•to ensure a consistent approach throughout the school,

• to ensure the needs of each individual pupil are taken into account,

• to ensure parents/carers understand clearly what is expected from them and their child,

• to extend and support each child’s learning experience,

• to provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership.

• provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences

**Procedures:**

**Nursery:**

In nursery, children are given a home learning sheet at the start of each new topic which gives parents ideas of activities to do at home which link to the learning in school. This could be baking, measuring objects, spotting objects beginning with a certain letter linked to phonics.

**Reception:**

In Reception, children are expected to read their book for 5-10 minutes per night and practice reading and writing their high frequency words.

**KS1:**

In KS1 children are encouraged to read for 10-15 minutes per night. They have keywords to practise reading and writing which are tested weekly. The children also have a weekly ‘Journal’ task which links to what the children have been learning in assembly and helps to nurture the faith aspect of their education.

**KS2:**

In key stage 2 children are expected to read for 15+ minutes per day and we encourage independent reading also. The children have weekly spellings to learn which are tested on a Friday. They have a Faith based journal task. The children also receive maths homework linked to the small step concept in maths and this is kept in their homework book and marked on a Monday by the class teacher and feedback given.

**Recording:**

We encourage parents to write a comment in their child’s reading diary. We value what children read at home and reward them with stamps in reading diaries and prizes for home reading. Members of staff check children’s homework and reading diary every week and acknowledge the hard work completed at home. Parents’ comments are valued and comments acted upon. Each child should have a named book bag to keep homework in which will be given when each child starts school. If lost, a replacement can be purchased from the school office.

**The role of parents/carers:**

Parents and carers can best support the child’s learning by

• providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which the child can do their homework

• making it clear to the child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how homework can help their learning

• encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework

• complete the homework record in homework diaries

• Support children with the application of learnt spellings

• alleviate the pressure of homework by making it fun and interactive

**Monitor and Review:**

The effectiveness of the homework policy will be reviewed biannually or as required with the criteria of:

* the extent to which it is contributing to the progress of the children.
* how parent/carers and teachers feel the policy is succeeding/failing and how this could be improved

**This policy was reviewed by the schools Governing Body on 01/10/2023 and will be reviewed every other year.**