



Abberley Parochial V.C. Primary School

Rooted and ground in love

Homework policy

Reviewed: January 2020

Next review: January 2021

At Abberley Parochial V.C. Primary School we believe that homework encourages independence and provides an opportunity to revisit learning which has taken place in the classroom. It also provides further opportunities for enhanced communication between the school and home and the opportunity for teachers to see if pupils have retained the skills developed in school. These principles are in harmony with our school vision, to be 'rooted and grounded in love' and to enable a greater depth of comprehension of the world and all that is around us.

We recognise that children who attend Abberley lead busy and full lives; many attending after school clubs and additional activities in and out of school and giving of their best each day they are here. We endeavour to provide homework as an opportunity to add value to children's learning and not simply to give them tasks to complete. To achieve this, homework tasks are considerably pitched to provide challenge yet be independently achievable. Feedback should be given on the outcome and progress being made in order for homework to be valuable.

Reading

Pupils are expected to read for twenty minutes every day and regularly to an adult at home. Children throughout the school are provided with a school diary and a book from our school reading scheme or collection.

For children in reception to year 2, we encourage parents to comment daily on their child's reading. Book bags and pupil diaries will be checked daily, unless there are extenuating circumstances, with books being changed where needed. From years 3-6 parents and teachers should sign diaries weekly to confirm they have reviewed them and acknowledged comments made by parents. Parental comments are not a way for the school to check up on parents, but more a channel of communication for the family and school to work together to enhance a child's reading development.

From year 3 to year 6, children can approach reading with more independence, but we still expect daily reading. We encourage parents to continue to sign pupil diaries and to listen to their children as often as possible.

Spellings

Spelling lists will be sent home to practise every week, except where there are exceptional circumstances, such as school events or part weeks. Each week, children should prepare to be tested on their spellings.

In KS1, pupil's spellings will be linked to their phonics learning. At Abberley Primary School, we follow the letters and sounds progression through phonics (further details can be found in the English section of the school website: [learning-curriculum-English](#)).

Children in years 3 to 6 will be assigned spellings from our school spelling curriculum, which covers a wide range of spelling patterns and vocabulary in line with the National Curriculum. Spellings will be adapted for individual pupils where necessary to help them recall key words.

Maths

Pupils in KS1 should be practising their times tables and number bonds weekly. Tasks will be set by the class teacher on occasion and will be communicated through our weekly newsletter.

Children in years 3 to 6 should complete one test in their mental maths book weekly. These books are pitched to the children's ability, meaning that the children should be able to access most of the questions independently. Children should complete this in a quiet area where they can concentrate as analysis of homework will be used to inform the teaching and learning of pupils in school, so it is important that they complete tasks to the best of their ability.

Mental arithmetic books will be sent home each Monday and the assigned test (which will be dated by the teacher) should be completed and the book returned on Thursday. Opportunities for correction and feedback will often form a part of Friday's maths lessons in school, so it is essential that books are returned.

Year 5 and 6

In preparation for the transfer to the senior school, additional tasks are set from time to time in years 5 and 6. This may involve research or finishing off work started at school. In such circumstances this will be clearly communicated in pupil diaries. Children should not find these tasks too overwhelming. Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers if they feel that this is the case or if tasks are taking longer than thirty minutes of focused effort on a single piece in a week.

Communication

We recognise that on occasions it may be difficult for children to complete homework tasks due to out of school commitments. If this is the case, we would ask parents to communicate this with the class teacher to avoid any misunderstanding.

Please use the pupil diaries to update teachers regarding how children approach their homework. For more urgent matters, please e-mail the school office to let us know office@abberley.worcs.sch.uk

Non-compliance

We are eager for all our pupils to benefit from the opportunity of homework and we expect parents to support their children by prompting them and providing a suitable environment conducive to concentration. However, children who do not complete homework will not be punished as non-completion of homework is not a punishable behaviour in our school behaviour policy. In each parental report, feedback will be given to parents outlining pupil's apparent effort and attainment in their homework. Pupils who do not complete their maths and spellings homework will miss out on the opportunities that homework offers:

- They are unlikely to make the same degree of progress.
- They are unlikely to develop the same level of discipline and independent approach to learning.
- Their individual needs will be less likely to be highlighted in the planning and teaching in lessons.
- Rather than reviewing previous errors, they will work towards tasks during workshop sessions.

Term time holidays

It is not the policy of the school to set work for children who are taken on holiday during term time.

Sickness

If children are sick in the short-term, but are well enough to learn, we encourage them to complete their weekly homework. For longer-term sicknesses school staff will endeavour to support pupils through assigning homework tasks and providing feedback.