

Orchards C of E Academy - Homework Policy

At Orchards, we believe that homework should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their classwork. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. It can be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school.

What the school will offer:

During each half term of the school year, every parent will receive a grid with a description of the home learning tasks. Class teachers will create these grids based on their prior knowledge of the needs of their class, the upcoming topic to be covered and objectives which will be studied during the half term.

The grid will include three boxes (hi-lighted by a star) which should be completed every week – this might include activities such as weekly spellings; times tables practice and daily reading tasks.

Also included will be 6-9 additional boxes on the grid. These will be three writing tasks; three maths tasks; and three other tasks which might be more art or topic based. Pupils, in consultation with their parents, will also have the opportunity to complete any or all of these tasks, if they wish.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom or the needs of the pupils.
- The task is made clear to the children and matched to their abilities.
- Time scales for completion and submission are clearly explained.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.

All children will be expected to complete the three compulsory, weekly tasks. Class teachers will offer incentives for children who regularly complete homework tasks, which they will discuss with their classes – extra Dojo points, for example.

The Role of Parents

Parents need to discuss with their children the following questions:

- When is it a good time to do any homework?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What helps concentration?
- How long should my homework take me?
- Should I ask for help with my homework, even when it is finishing work started in class?
- Who should I ask for help and how much help should I expect?

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Regular completion of extended homework tasks by children in Year 6 will go a long way towards helping them transition smoothly to the greater homework expectations of secondary school.

Pupils with special educational needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special educational needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.