



Dovelands  
Primary School

# **Dovelands Primary School**

## **Homework Policy 2024**



At Dovelands Primary School we recognise the vital role parents play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the importance of home-school partnerships and engagement with our families, of which our homework policy is one element.

Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons. Common homework activities in primary schools tend to be reading or practising spelling and number facts, but may also include more extended activities to develop enquiry skills.

As a Gold UNICEF Rights Respecting School we also believe that homework should support the following rights of the child:

**Article 23:** You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.

**Article 28:** You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

**Article 29:** Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

### How effective is homework?

*“It is certainly the case that schools whose pupils do homework tend to be more successful. However, it is not clear whether use of homework is a reason for this success. A number of reviews and meta-analyses have explored this issue.*

*There is some evidence that when homework is used as a short and focused intervention it can be effective in improving students’ attainment. The quality of the task set appears to be more important than the quantity of work required from the pupil.*

*The broader evidence base suggests that short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.”*

Education Endowment Foundation, Teaching and Learning Toolkit 2018

### The purpose of homework

The purpose of homework at Dovelands Primary School is:

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- To develop an effective partnership between the school, parents and carers in our aspirations for each individual.
- To encourage pupils to develop the independence, confidence and self-discipline need to work on their own.
- To give families the opportunity to share experiences together.

## The structure of homework at Dovelands Primary School

### Weekly homework

#### Reading

Parents can play a crucial role in helping their children to develop a love of reading from an early age. All pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 will be expected to share and enjoy books and to read regularly with adults as part of their reading homework, which should be recorded in their reading diary. As children progress through Key Stage 2, regular reading continues to be crucial. This should take the form of reading to an adult, of reading on their own if the child is a fluent reader, or of using reference material to find information about a topic. All pupils should be encouraged to read regularly. Pupils are also encouraged to read books of their own choice either from home or school. This reading should also be recorded in their reading diary.

#### Spellings

In Key Stages 1 and 2, spellings will be introduced and taught to pupils in English lessons at the start of the week. Pupils will then need to learn their spellings at home for a weekly test. Pupils will receive the spellings for the entire half term at the start of each new half term at school and they will be stuck in their pink homework log. They will also be available on Spelling Shed and Class Dojo.

#### Maths

Children in KS1 will be expected to practise their number facts using Numbots each week. Later in KS1, they will begin to use Times Table Rock Stars. Children in KS2 will be expected to practise their times table facts using Times Table Rock Stars each week.

	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Spellings</u>	<u>Maths</u>
<b>Reception</b>	<b>Pupils will</b> read for 10 minutes, 5 times per week. Please record all reading in pupil's reading diaries.  <b>Staff will</b> stamp reading records once per week.	<b>Pupils will</b> practise writing their own name and any tricky words sent home.  <b>Staff will</b> stamp any work sent back to school.	
<b>Year 1</b>		<b>Pupils will</b> practise for 10 minutes, 5 times per week. This should be either on Spelling Shed or recorded in the pink homework book.  <b>Staff will</b> check usage on Spelling Shed weekly and follow up with	<b>Pupils will</b> practise on Numbots for 10minutes, 5 times per week.  <b>Staff will</b> check usage on Numbots weekly and follow up with anyone not accessing the programme.
<b>Year 2</b>			

Year 3		anyone not practising their spellings. They will also stamp any spellings completed in pink homework books on a Monday.	<p><b>Pupils will</b> practise on Times Table Rock Stars for 10 minutes, 5 times per week.</p> <p><b>Staff will</b> check usage on Times Table Rock Stars weekly and follow up with anyone not accessing the programme.</p>
Year 4			
Year 5			
Year 6			

Pink homework books should be brought in every Monday and on the homework deadline at the end of the half term. Reading diaries should be in school daily.

### Optional half termly homework for Key Stages 1 and 2

At the start of each half term, 3 pieces of optional homework will also be set for Key Stages 1 and 2. This homework will consist of 3 differing pieces and children can complete some, all or none. They will be given out at the start of the half term and pupils have until the end of the half term to complete them.

A creative activity	A friends and family activity	A task linked to learning in school such as history or science
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### Feedback

Pupils who complete their homework will be celebrated and praised in a variety of ways:

- In celebration assemblies
- Shout outs
- Work being stamped
- Posts on the Class Dojo page for their class
- Celebration postcards sent home

### The Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Pupils with Homework

Parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of the homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers are encouraged to become involved in joint homework activities.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Provide suitable opportunities for pupils to do their homework.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.



### Reviewing the Policy

The head teacher will meet with staff as necessary to review and update the homework policy. The results of this review will be presented to the governing body. Where significant changes to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the governing body and parents consulted. The policy will be fully reviewed in three years, but may be amended at any point to reflect requirements, in consultation with parents, carers and governors.