

Homework Policy

Introduction

At Willow House School we believe that homework is a valuable element of the teaching and learning process. This document is a statement of our aims in the giving of homework on a regular basis. It should be read in the context of our teaching and learning policy.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff.

Rationale

Teaching and learning is the purpose of our school. Homework is considered a valuable means of developing links between the home and school. We believe in working together in partnership with therapeutic parents to ensure a good education for all children. It is for this reason that we believe it is important that children begin to bring 'work' home from an early age.

We believe that homework is part of developing a child's independent learning skills and prepares them in a gradual way for homework at a mainstream school.

We encourage children to develop as lifelong learners and teach them that learning takes place outside the school as well as inside.

Aims

At Willow House School we aim to:

- encourage children to work at home on a regular basis
- ensure that all children read at home or share a book with their therapeutic parents
- provide learning activities that will complement the work done at school
- develop research skills and encourage independent learning in order to prepare children for secondary school and lifelong learning.
- give further practice in basic skills (e.g. handwriting) which is set at the discretion of class teachers after negotiation with therapeutic parents

Principles

We believe that homework will be of most benefit if it is given therapeutic parental support and encouragement.

We are sensitive to the fact that there are situations when it is difficult for a child to complete homework tasks at home. We try to provide opportunity in school and time to complete homework

Our approach to 'homework' varies throughout the school according to the age and ability of the child.

Staff will check and mark as appropriate and work will be returned to the child. This is then put into a folder that can be seen by therapeutic parents at Parents Afternoons. Additional project work will be on a voluntary participation basis. Children may be rewarded for their contribution.

Children will be expected to complete their homework tasks. A consequence will be given to those children not completing their homework. Homework will be expected to be of a similar standard to work completed in school.

Compulsory homework will be within the child's capability to complete independently. Time will be given in school to ensure children are taught the independent skills needed to complete homework. This includes support to help children learn how to organise themselves.

Teachers will make an appropriate material (ie packs of paper and stationary available to those children who need it). Homework will be expected to be of a similar standard to work completed in school.

Homework will be marked and made available to therapeutic parents.

Sufficient time will be allowed for completion of homework tasks, and teachers will be mindful and consider tasks around holiday times and weekends.

Rewards and consequences

Where homework is voluntary, children may be rewarded as the teacher feels appropriate, sticker, team points, smiley face, positive comments etc.

Where homework is compulsory, the teacher's response to homework should be the same as to any work produced in the classroom.

If homework is compulsory and not completed, it is appropriate to consider extending the deadline or to expect a child to complete the work at play or lunchtime.

Absence

If children are off school because they are sick then we do not send work home unless there are specific circumstances where we believe the child is well enough to work. This can be discussed with the Head Of Education.

Policy review

This policy document will be reviewed by the Executive Headteacher on an annual basis to ensure it is up to date with current legislation and best practice.

Date approved: May 2018

Date last reviewed: September 2024
Next review (or before): September 2025

Signed: 

Position: Education Director

Staff Acknowledgement

In signing this document I am confirming I have read the information and have an understanding of the procedures outlined within the information provided.

I have had the opportunity to discuss this document with a Senior Leadership member of staff to gain further clarity.

I also know that if I feel I need further guidance I know I can access through the Executive Headteacher.

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