



Warwick Preparatory School

Policy:	Homework
Applies to:	Warwick Prep School
Authors:	Dee Alder (Deputy Head)
Approved by:	SLT
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Signed:	

Warwick Preparatory School

Homework Policy

[THIS POLICY IS AVAILABLE TO ALL PARENTS OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE PUPILS AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE OR BY REQUEST]

1. Policy Statement

Warwick Preparatory School's homework policy applies to all children in the school including EYFS. The school expects all parents to support this policy and work with their child/children as required to ensure learning opportunities are capitalised and experiences for pupils are positive and encouraging. Approaches to homework will vary for different age groups.

Rationale

Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons. Common homework activities in Warwick Preparatory School include reading or practising spelling and number facts, but also include extended activities to develop inquiry skills, directed tasks and focused work such as revision for tests.

Although there is limited data for primary age pupils, the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) has used meta-analyses to conclude that when homework is used as a short and focused intervention it can be effective in improving students' attainment. The quality of tasks set is more important than the quantity of work required, and that parents do have a positive impact on homework completion and in developing effective learning habits.

Therefore, at Warwick Preparatory School, we aim to set focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in lessons to provide maximum impact on learning outcomes for our pupils. Homework tasks and expectations will be realistic, age-appropriate and useful to the learner.

Aims

The main priorities and purposes in setting homework at Warwick Preparatory School are to:

- Provide meaningful tasks that practise, extend or prepare for learning within the classroom

- Provide relevant feedback that targets next steps, values the efforts and the progress of the student in their independent learning
- Develop positive, confident and effective learning habits
- Encourage individuality, initiative, creativity, independence and enquiry
- Support parents with managing and assisting with their child's home learning
- Provide the latest technological platforms for accessing and completing homework appropriate to the age of the child

2. Homework Tasks

Responsibility for setting homework lies with the member of staff who teaches the subject. All teachers are expected to provide clear instruction, or written information as appropriate, as to the activities that are to be completed and expected deadlines for completion.

The expectation is that pupils will complete all homework tasks set within the allotted time and to the best of their ability. To help aid the effective use of time, pupils are provided with a Planner and a regular homework timetable (see Appendix A). Teachers who set homework are expected to ensure pupils have recorded the information appropriately in their Planner.

Homework tasks may cover a wide range of activities:

- Phonics and pre-reading skills
- Reading
- Learning spelling
- Language vocabulary work
- Practising multiplication tables / bonds
- Preparing presentations
- Revision
- Written exercises / tasks
- Interactive activities
- Project work
- Specific preparation for an upcoming event

Other activities at home may also be required in order to promote children's learning and development, such as music practise, LAMDA preparations or completing learning support homework set by the SEND dept.

When possible, girls in the Prep dept. may complete some homework tasks in After School Care/Library club/Homework club where they may access the computers and library books.

Homework timetable

At Warwick Preparatory School, we recognise that children should, as well as completing their schoolwork, experience a whole range of activities. We wholeheartedly support and encourage the co-curriculum and have taken this into account when devising the homework timetable which runs on a fortnightly rotation (Appendix A). We aim to support and foster well-rounded and balanced children

who have the freedom to undertake after school clubs and activities, attend sporting fixtures and experience sporting, musical and creative pursuits.

All children are encouraged to read regularly, discuss their book and keep a reading log. From Year 1, the children are allocated weekly spellings and can use online platforms to practise. The children also have a spelling journal to support their learning of spelling strategies and rules.

Project Fortnight

In order to encourage and develop creativity, individuality, independent skills, enquiry and initiative, pupils enjoy a 'Project Fortnight' at regular intervals throughout their school life. When in Lower School, pupils are asked to take part in a 'Skills for Life' project during the Spring term when the whole school partakes in activities at home. Once in the Prep dept. pupils will also be asked to complete humanities and science topics; pupils are guided on how to manage their time and present their work but they are urged to make their own choices. Year 6 will also follow a 'Skills for Life' portfolio of activities and projects throughout the spring and summer terms.

3. Holiday Homework

At Warwick Preparatory School, pupils enjoy a busy and engaging school term. The holidays are therefore important to rest, enjoy family time and return re-energised for the next school term.

For this reason, holiday homework tasks are limited to the following:

- A suggestion of educational activities outside the classroom that are practical and interactive that parents may like to enjoy with their children
- Encouragement to use the local library and read regularly
- Use of online platforms that the school subscribes to like: 'Spelling Shed', 'My Maths' and 'Atom Learning'
- Key skills tasks for those who would benefit from extra practise
- Specific tasks set by the Learning Support Dept.
- Optional writing of a holiday diary shared with the Deputy Head upon return to school and rewarded with a certificate
- Year 5 pupils are provided with activities that help prepare for external exams

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DA 02.05.21

APPENDIX A – Homework Schedule

Learning Support work is set as required for individual needs according to IEPs.

Nursery

- No formal homework. Occasional, fun, reinforcement activities
- Weekly library book (from February half term)

Reception

- Reading and sound/word practice Monday – Thursday (15 minutes) and weekly phonics activities

Lower School

- Reading: Monday – Thursday (15/20 minutes) and weekly library book
- Year 1: Spelling Shed practice or English activity and Maths game at the weekend
- Year 2: Spelling and Maths activities or written topic-based activity at the weekend.

Prep Dept. Schedule

Year group	2-week rotational timetable
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths x 3 (20 mins) • English x 3 (20 mins) • Humanities x 2 (30 mins) • Reading sessions (10 mins x 3, and 20 mins x 2) • Spellings and Times Tables (weekly)
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths x 3 (30 mins) • English x 3 (30 mins) • Science x 2 (30 mins) • Humanities x 2 (30 mins) • Reading sessions (10 mins x 3) • Spellings and Times Tables (weekly)
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths x 3 (45 mins) • English x 3 (45 mins) • Science x 2 (40 mins) • MFL x 2 (20 mins) • Spellings and Times Tables (weekly) • Regular reading
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths x 3 (45 mins), Maths x 2 (45 mins) Spring/Summer Term • English x 3 (45 mins), English x 2 (45 mins) Spring/Summer Term • Science x 2 (40 mins) • MFL x 2 (30 mins) • Skills for Life x 2 (60 mins) Spring/Summer Term • Spellings and Times Tables (weekly) • Regular reading