



Homework Policy

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Statement of intent

Lowther Endowed School is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward thinking and safe learning environment in which children are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling primary school education.

At Lowther Endowed School, we believe that homework plays an important part in a child's education. The benefit of doing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent study can be achieved.

We are also aware that children have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. We will give careful consideration to making homework well-balanced across the school.

This Homework Policy is based on government guidelines which emphasise the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn.

Why is homework important?

- It raises your children's achievement.
- It consolidates and extends the work they have done in school
- It helps to inform you about your child's school work and allows and gives you the opportunity to support this work
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment.

The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which most people feel is reasonable and in line with the Department for Education.

It was developed in consultation with staff members, parents, pupils and with the full agreement of the **governing body**.

Aims

Lowther Endowed School's Homework Policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regard to homework.
- Ensure that parents have clarity on what their child is expected to do.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work their child is covering.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experiences by extending it beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practice and deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

1. Responsibilities

1.1. The role of the headteacher and governing body:

- Frequently check compliance of the policy.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the policy every year.
- Review the policy every year and make appropriate updates as required.
- Discuss with staff how far the Policy is being implemented.
- Meet with parents as appropriate.
- Support parents with information about homework.
- Inform new parents about the Homework Policy.

1.2. The role of the teacher:

- Plan and set up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Provide an explanation of homework tasks and ensure all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensure all homework given is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Set homework that is appropriate to the child's ability.
- Monitor homework regularly and make sure pupils are completing it.
- Give feedback to pupils on homework, including verbally.
- Communicate with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Be available for discussion if necessary to parents and pupils about homework.
- Ensure homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of pupils with disabilities are considered.
- Reward quality work and praise children who regularly complete homework.

1.3. The role of parents/carers:

- Support their child in completing homework.
- Become involved in their child's homework and encourage their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Make sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Provide suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Praise their child and celebrate achievements with regard to their homework.
- Inform teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operate with the school to find a solution. If you are unsure of how much help to give your child, discuss it with the class teacher. Children are more likely to get more out of any activity if parents get involved.
- Keep the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and homework.
- Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
- Sign your child's reading record book, supporting the monitor of their reading progression;

1.4. The role of pupils:

- Take responsibility for their learning and submit completed work in a timely manner.
- Have a positive approach towards homework.
- Put the same effort into homework as would be expected of class work.
- Make sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seek clarification if required.
- Ensure that they have everything they need to complete homework and return to school all books/stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Take pride in the presentation and content of their homework and perform to a high personal standard.

2. Homework Tasks – Current practice

- 2.1. Each class will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework at least termly.
- 2.2. Teachers will explain the organisation of homework to parents at the parents' evening in October (policy on website).
- 2.3. Every term, the school website will inform parents about the main topics and work being covered.
- 2.4. Pupils will have homework and home learning books in which they complete their homework to keep their homework neat and organised. They will also have access to Google Classroom. Instructions for homework will regularly be displayed on Google Classroom. Websites such as Times Tables Rockstars will also be used for homework tasks.
- 2.5. Every pupil will receive weekly homework with instructions on when to complete it and return it by.
- 2.6. Homework will be checked/marked regularly with regular feedback by staff.
- 2.7. Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss any errors with their child. If they have any queries, they should make an appointment to see their child's class teacher. Feedback from parents about their child's homework is also welcomed by the school.
- 2.8. The amount of homework will increase as the child progresses through school. Teachers may occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they feel it would be beneficial to their learning (particularly for end of key stage tests).
- 2.9. The table below shows expected homework. This sets out our intentions as a school. It may not always be possible to follow the plan and unforeseen circumstances or other planned events/activities may lead to minor alternations to this. Daily reading is encouraged for all children (4 times minimum weekly) with a clear log kept (and signed) in their reading record. This is part of expected homework in addition to the below activities.

Year Group	Homework	Maximum Time recommended
R	• Reading (and being read to) • Phonics/word cards	10 minutes a night 10 minutes
1	• Reading 4 x weekly minimum • Tricky Words Practice/Phonics • Weekly numeracy (not first half term) • Home Learning activity half termly	10 minutes a night 10 minutes 10 minutes
2	• Reading 4 x weekly minimum • Weekly high frequency words (spelling)/grammar • Number Bonds work • Home Learning half termly	10 minutes a night 10 minutes 10 minutes
3	• Reading 4 x weekly minimum • Times Tables & activities • Spelling activity (Common Exception words & Yr 3 spelling patterns) • Home Learning (once every half term)	10 minutes a night 15 minutes 15 minutes
4	• Reading 4 x weekly minimum • Times Tables & activities • Spelling (Common Exception words & Yr 4 spelling patterns) • Home Learning (once every half term)	10 minutes a night 20 minutes 20 minutes
5	• Reading 4 x weekly minimum • Times Tables & activities • Spelling - CEW; weekly spelling pattern/grammar Yr 5 activity • Home Learning (once every half term)	10 minutes a night 25 minutes 25 minutes
6	• Reading 4 x weekly minimum • Times Tables & activities • Spelling - CEW; weekly spelling pattern/grammar Yr 6 activity • Home Learning (once every half term) • Maths, Grammar & reading practise spring term (SATs practise)	10 minutes/night 25 minutes 25 minutes

Home learning will be linked to your child's topics in class and over the year will encompass a range of subjects such as Science, History, Geography etc. We may also set 'talk' homework, where children are encouraged to talk through a topic/an idea to support their writing in school. This has really had a positive impact on children's writing in school.

Other ways to help your child learn at home:-

- Give your child confidence through praise and encouragement
- Read to and with your child, as much as possible and let them see you reading anything to model;
- Encourage free writing by having pens, paper, crayons etc available and let them see you writing;
- Teach your child to tell the time using a range of clocks, spotting them outdoors and in;
- Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc and discuss what they are learning; ask lots of questions;

- f) Make use of your local library;
- g) Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting
- h) If you and your child watch television together, discuss.
- i) Bake, play games and cards, shop, measure ... show them the practical applications of their learning in the real world.

The use of IT

Teachers understand internet access may be limited or shared; however the school website will continue links to safe and selected websites for extra practise of skills and for further research for topics. Children are reminded at all times the school's policy for safe use of the Internet.

3. Absences

- 3.1. If the child is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will not supply work for these periods as pupils should be well enough to undertake work. In some cases, there may be exceptions to this rule and the school has the right to decide whether this is acceptable or not. **In the case of shielding or family reasons linked to Covid, work will be provided in line with our home learning policy.**
- 3.2. If the child is absent for a long period of time, the teacher and the parent of the child will agree on what could be done and how much help should be given to the child, depending on the individual circumstances.

4. Pupils who fail to complete homework

- 4.1. All pupils are expected to complete homework on time. Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework which will be regularly checked. If pupils fail to complete homework on regular basis, teachers will contact parents to find out why and what can be done to rectify the situation.

5. Marking homework

Homework may be marked in a variety of ways according to the school's marking policy and the nature of the activity. The work may be ticked to show that it has been marked. Sometimes, the work will be marked in detail and comments are given on future progress. Occasionally, the work may be marked orally with the child or class.

6. Pupils with SEND

- 6.1. The school recognises that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may require that specific tasks be set in the form of Individual Education Plans.
- 6.2. While pupils with SEND may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework received from other pupils, it is important that they also do as much in common with other pupils.

- 6.3. A balanced amount of the right type of homework will be set for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the parents and the SENCo (Mrs Toinette Thomas).

7. Equal Opportunities

- 7.1. At Lowther Endowed School, governors and staff members are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background. All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

8. Policy review

- 8.1. This policy is reviewed at least every **two** years by the **headteacher in consultation with staff**.
- 8.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is **July 2022**.

