Homework Policy

At Poplar Farm Primary School we aim to create a welcoming school where everyone can be safe, happy and therefore able to learn. We value the input and support parents and carers can give us in this aim.

There are many opportunities for children to extend or consolidate their learning at home. The requirements of the National Curriculum and EYFS are met fully in school. As part of the home-school partnership, it is expected that reading books are shared and a range of mathematical concepts are practised as part of the support given to pupil learning.

In developing and implementing our Homework Policy, we will:

- involve parents and carers, as we recognise the vital role they and homework could play in raising standards of achievement by pupils of all ages;
- involve the staff and governors as part of the school's consultation process;
- consider any advice given by external agencies;
- consider the views of the named trade unions and professional associations;
- endeavour to match the priorities of the school improvement plan;
- seek equal opportunities for all, particularly in relation to gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, age and class;
- take account of relevant legislation;
- encourage everyone to accept responsibility towards ensuring high standards;
- allow all children to experience success with appropriate curriculum content;
- regularly monitor and review the agreed Homework Policy and procedures.

Specific Content

The evidence collated after extensive research and analysis suggests homework makes the greatest contribution to learning when:

- children and parents or carers are very clear about what they need to do;
- parents and carers are treated as partners in their children's learning;
- tasks are carefully planned and structured to support progression in learning, as part of schools' schemes of work;
- there is a regular programme, so that everyone, - teachers, children and parents or carers - know what to expect each week;
- there is firm leadership and a team approach, to ensure consistent practice;
- homework policies are regularly monitored and evaluated to check that they support children's learning in the best possible way. This may include providing opportunities for children to choose the way they demonstrate their learning.

Taking this evidence into account, plus the fact that in the primary education phase the purposes of homework change as children get older, we intend to provide short activities on a regular basis for children in Reception and Years 1 and 2. These short activities will include simple games, learning spellings and number facts, and reading together.

For pupils in Years 3 to 6, the homework we provide will give an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning. We intend that the transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible. So the homework given to older children will gradually increase in its demands. It will be differentiated where appropriate, to take account of individual pupils' needs and might include finding out information, reading in preparation for lessons, preparing oral presentations as well as more traditional written assignments, alongside spelling, number facts and reading. In general, this means homework will be given as follows:

Foundation Stage

- Practical tasks each week based on the Early Years Areas of Learning;
- High-frequency word recognition, leading to spellings when appropriate;
- Reading.

* In addition, parents are asked to record information related to their child's development using a 'Parents as Partners' form

Key Stage 1

- Weekly spellings
- One mental maths task and one main maths task per week;
- Reading;
- One non-core task linked to the class topic being studied.

Key Stage 2

- Weekly spelling lists (or spelling based activities if more appropriate);
- One mental maths task and one main maths task per week;
- Weekly times-table focus;
- Reading;
- Additional task –based on another area of the curriculum.

<u>General</u>

- All homework will be set weekly;
- At least once a year all children will have the opportunity to complete an extended homework project.

Recommended Time Allocation for Home Learning Activities

<u>Reception, Year 1 and 2</u>

1 hour per week (10 mins per day) weekend fun learning

<u>Years 3 and 4</u>

1 ½ hours per week (15mins per day weekend fun learning

<u>Years 5 and 6</u>

30 minutes per Day

Date: March 2018

All policies are currently being ratified as appropriate by The Local Governing Body