



HOMework POLICY

This policy applies to all children at Unicorn School, including those in the EYFS.

RESPONSIBILITY

Staff Member:	Deputy Head
Governors' Committee:	Education & Staffing

Last Reviewed:	February 2020
Approved (Committee):	February 2020
Noted (Governors):	March 2020

HOMEWORK

This applies to all children at Unicorn School from Reception (EYFS) to Year 6 (UV).

At Unicorn School we believe homework should always be a positive, productive contribution to a pupil's education.

Parents working in partnership with teachers is key to a child's success. Our policy is designed to:

- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work in partnership and to share & enjoy learning experiences;
- Consolidate and reinforce basic skills & knowledge, especially in English & Mathematics;
- Provide opportunities as children get older to develop skills of independent working.

THE INFANT DEPARTMENT (Red, Orange, Yellow and Green)

Content

These children are very young and they should be experiencing free time to relax and play in the evenings. The children take their reading folders home each night, to encourage parents in the crucial part they play in helping their children become fluent readers. Children take home books with which they have some degree of confidence. They need to consolidate with their parents and reinforce work completed during the day.

Parents of infants are offered guidelines to encourage good, basic skills, including an interest in words, pretend reading, encouraging word stimuli around the house and inspiring an enjoyment in a variety of stories every day. Most of all, parents are urged to provide a warm, caring setting that allow a child to grow and develop reading skills with enjoyment.

In addition to reading books, Yellow and Green take home a weekly homework. The homework reinforces what has been learnt that week and should take no more than twenty minutes for each piece of work. This may include Literacy or topic, spellings, including Tricky Words, or mathematics. Yellow and Green Class teachers briefly explain the homework and any strategies required for supporting children with their work.

Communication

The homework that is sent home is explained to children before being sent and the instructions on/with it are easy for a parent to interpret. If further explanation is needed then the class teacher may send an e-mail home too.

THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT (Blue, Indigo, Violet and Ultra Violet)

Content

In Blue and Indigo classes, homework should take between 20 and 30 minutes a night. In Violet and Ultra Violet homework should last between 30 and 45 minutes a night.

Throughout the week children will be set 2 English tasks (comprehension, grammar, punctuation or writing), 2 maths tasks (Schofield & Sims mental maths, written maths or optional problem solving) and 1 other task (usually project).

All Junior children are expected to read every night and learn spellings and tables on a regular basis.

Although parents are advised to observe the time limits for homework set by the class teacher and to encourage their child, it is counter-productive for parents to do the child's homework for them. It is important for the teacher concerned to see the areas of difficulty experienced by a child. Where a parent offers support to their child with a particular piece of work, it is helpful to share this with the teacher. The expectation in Blue and Indigo is that children work independently and ask for clarification or help only if needed. By Violet and Ultra Violet the expectation is that children should work independently unless instructed otherwise.

Communication

Homework is carefully explained to the children and differentiated accordingly. Homework diaries may be used. We always encourage parents to speak to the Classteacher if there are any issues over homework.

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

This is optional and teachers may use this as an opportunity to further enthuse a child, if they wish, with topic related work. Exam preparation for senior schools is regarded as very important for Years 5 and 6, and they will be expected to do written work in the holidays.

HOMEWORK CLUB

A Homework Club is available in school from 3.30 - 5pm. The purpose is to help working parents or children and parents who are experiencing some difficulty with homework at home. The children have a snack and play, and then settle quietly and independently to work. The teacher is there to provide encouragement and help when needed.

Children who go home at 3.30pm are also encouraged to settle to their homework straight away after an appropriate break/snack.

Updated – June 2011 – KE

Updated – April 2013 – RL

Updated – July 2015 – KT

Updated – February 2017 – JAR

Updated – February 2020 – DG