



HOMEWORK POLICY

December 2021

At Victoria Community School, we aim to create a positive environment where pupils can work to their full potential. We encourage children to be confident, independent learners, and believe that homework plays a valuable part in consolidating knowledge and developing skills.

Aims

- to develop effective character skills and attitudes: *independence, resilience, empathy, perseverance, teamwork, understanding and managing feelings, considering actions*
- to consolidate skills and knowledge taught in school
- to encourage pupils to develop good study habits, such as confidence, self-discipline and research skills, before the next stage in their academic journey and for lifelong learning.
- to encourage the home/school partnership for learning and to involve parents with the education of their children.

It is the aim of Victoria Community School that homework and parental involvement should enhance learning. It should therefore be presented in a flexible way that does not interfere with other activities which extend and enrich a child's experience.

It is the purpose of this policy to give clear guidelines and outline the responsibilities of all involved.

What is Homework?

Homework is any task that a child is asked to complete at home on their own, or with parents or carers. It encompasses a wide variety of activities instigated by teachers to support children's learning.

Essential Tasks

Each week pupils are expected to complete a variety of essential tasks (dependent upon their age):

- reading - with comments recorded in the reading journal by an adult
- phonics – practising letter sounds (EYs and KS1)
- spellings
- times tables (Year 2 onwards)
- maths number targets

Guidelines:

- Years 1 and 2: 10-15 minutes per day
- Years 3 and 4: 15-20 minutes per day
- Years 5 and 6: 20-30 minutes per day

Half Termly Tasks

In addition to the weekly essential tasks, pupils are provided with a range of fun and engaging learning activities to choose from. These link with learning within school and should be completed over the period of the half term.

This variety of learning activities enables homework to meet the needs of differing abilities, including special educational needs, and differing learning styles of pupils. It also enables children to develop and share their creativity and to work collaboratively with their parents or carers.

Knowledge Organisers

Pupils will be given knowledge organisers each half term. These show the key information and vocabulary associated with the Creative Curriculum learning for that half term.

Science knowledge organisers will link with the relevant topic being studied.

Children will keep these at home to develop and consolidate their knowledge and understanding, ready for quizzes at the end of their topics.

School Website

Each class will provide information relating to homework on their website pages and update this each half term.

Resources to support learning and web links will be available, e.g. Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)

Support and Sanctions

- Teachers will monitor which children may require further support with their homework and address needs accordingly, e.g. provide paper versions of activities.
- Access to ICT resources for those pupils without internet access at home, e.g. during lunchtime clubs
- If homework has not been handed in, children will be expected to complete it during playtime.

Roles and Responsibilities

Class Teachers

- Will establish a regular pattern of homework. This is important to children, parents and the teachers themselves.
- Be responsible for encouraging effort and a responsible attitude to homework by providing positive, prompt feedback.
- Consider the individual needs of all children in their care when designing tasks.
- Ensure that demands are reasonable and consider family, social, health and other factors affecting the child.
- Maintain a regular dialogue with parents via formal and informal means e.g. homework books, Parents' Evenings, 'Marvellous Me', year group emails and the school website.
- The patterns of homework and expectations of Victoria Community School will be outlined in year group booklets and at the Introductory Parents' Meetings each September. Patterns and expectations should be reviewed/discussed at termly Parents' Evenings or as appropriate.

Bilingual and Support Staff

- Consult with staff and parents regarding the relevance and importance of homework.
- Translate where necessary.
- Assist in the preparation of homework sheets.
- Support individual children (especially dyslexic children) to clarify tasks, review completed tasks
- Offer positive feedback.

VLT / Curriculum leaders

- Monitor homework each term, e.g. by pupil voice interviews.
- Ensure consistency across the school in terms of tasks and expectations.
- Discuss with staff the success and difficulties of policies and procedures.

Parents

- Provide positive encouragement and support for the child and the school.
- Provide a quiet, warm environment for the completion of tasks.
- Make clear to the child that their efforts and work are valued and praise completed homework
- Support children in their attendance at extra-curricular activities such as school clubs, mosque or other organisations brownies/cubs etc. Such opportunities offer children valuable experience.
- Make sure that children take care of their books.

Extended leave during term time

Children will be given tasks/homework designed to help retain and consolidate skills introduced in the classroom, including links to websites. They will be encouraged to keep a diary to record special moments. Evidence of learning will be requested upon the child's return to school.

School Closure

In the event of further closure due to Covid19, children will continue their learning using online resources. This is currently being developed and updated.

See also: *Home School Agreement*

Written by: A Hughes Dec 2021

AGREED BY GOVERNORS: Dec 2021
