



Copperfield
Academy

HOMWORK POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2014

Copperfield Academy

Homework Policy

At Copperfield we define homework as an activity that pupils undertake outside of the school lesson time. For younger pupils this would always be with the support of family members whilst with older pupils there will be times when we would encourage the children to do their homework independently. We are strongly committed to parents supporting their children's learning.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about learning that is happening in class
- It can be a great way of parents being involved in their children's learning
- It is an excellent opportunity to practice skills learnt in class
- It helps children to organise themselves and it fosters independence

Homework at Copperfield

Whilst we believe in homework and support it in principle Copperfield is not a school where homework dominates home and school life. We accept that children have clubs and activities to go to after school and that weekends can be busy times for families. We believe that homework should be manageable and enjoyable for the children and that it should not be a negative experience. We also know that with the fast changing teaching methods the way we teach maths, for example, in school today may be very different to how parents were taught maths. Homework should not lead to confrontation. We do know that children on the whole do not find homework exciting and therefore it should not become a chore or burden that benefits nobody. If it does it ceases to be constructive to learning in and out of school!

Reading

We do encourage all children to read *each night*, even for ten minutes. Children will bring their reading books home each night. The best support parents can give their children's learning is to support their reading; listening to them read whilst you are sitting together, asking questions about what has happened and even parents reading the book to their child. All fosters a great love for reading. Parents feel that once their child has become a fluent reader then they do not need to 'hear them read'. We would encourage parents of fluent readers to discuss the book, how the characters acted, what they predict might happen and why. All our teachers will be very happy to support parents in this. We also have a list of books for year groups and some questions that can support parents available.

Spellings and Multiplication tables

These are the two other types of homework, in addition to reading, that your child will come home with each week. Spellings and multiplication tables (sometimes not all of them at once) will be given out on Monday. We give guidance on how to support your child in learning the spellings and timetables. They will be given a short test at the end of the week or early the following week.

Both the spellings and multiplication tables will usually be those from the National Curriculum for the year group your child is in. Spellings will not be given to Year R children though as they concentrate on their phonic sounds for homework. Some children may get different spellings from others in the class and this will be because these words may be the ones that they are frequently not spelling correctly in class.

Home Learning Projects

At the start of a new topic in school children may be encouraged to do a home learning project with their parents or care-givers at home. Often this is a craft based activity that parents can get involved in with their child and it will often be the stimulus for the topic work. We know that children really enjoy home learning projects so we try to plan for them before the start of most topics, but this is not always appropriate.

Year 6

In the run up to the SATs in Year 6 children will be given additional revision homework. None of the homework will be new learning and most of it your child should be able to do independently. However we would encourage you to check your child's homework for accuracy and also for neatness before it is brought into school.

Homework during holidays

It is our policy to not give homework over the holidays or half-term breaks for most of the year groups. The exception is for Year 6 as they near the SATS.

As you know we will not sanction holidays during term time. If parents do decide to take holidays during this time then we will not provide homework for them.

What to do if you have concerns

If you have concerns that the homework is not appropriate for your child, or they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is not consistent please talk with the class teacher in the first instance. If you are still concerned then please do talk with the Deputy Head teacher of your child's key stage.

Policy written September 2014

To be reviewed September 2017