

## Sunnyside Academy

### Homework Policy

*“Learning at home is an essential part of the good education to which all our children are entitled.....A good, well organised homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, independent lifelong learning.”*

Sunnyside Academy’s aim is to create a secure, happy caring environment within which children will grow and learn. Children will receive a broad, balanced curriculum, which is designed to motivate children to achieve their potential regardless of their individual abilities.

The role of parents and homework is critical to the achievement of this aim.

Homework is not a statutory requirement of schools but it is defined by DFE as:

***“.....any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.”***

Children in Sunnyside Academy will be set homework from the start of their school life. In the beginning this will be minimal and really involve families working, **and playing**, together to encourage children’s learning. Homework will gradually increase as children get older and we prepare them for transfer to secondary school. The basic minimum time allocations for homework, during weekdays, in Sunnyside Academy are:

Nursery/Reception	One hour per week
Year 1/Year 2	One hour per week
Year 3/Year 4	Two hours per week
Year 5/Year 6	Two and a half hours per week

Homework will follow a set pattern and routine. This allows all concerned - pupils, parents and staff - to plan and complete work systematically. Throughout the school the homework set will be heavily weighted towards the acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills. Gradually, other curriculum subjects (Science, History etc.) will be set as homework as children become older.

**The school endorses the view that children of all ages should take part in daily reading activities at home. Even on the evenings when other subjects are set Sunnyside staff and Governors would recommend that parents either:**

- **Spend some time reading to their child.**
  - **Listen to their child read.**
- Or**
- **See that their child spends some time reading alone.**

**The actual decision of parents will be determined by the age and ability of their child.**

All homework tasks, regardless of pupil's age or ability, need to be challenging, yet achievable. For example, tasks may include:

- Learning high frequency "key words".
- Learning number patterns/bonds/tables.
- Writing poetry.
- Reading a passage of text in preparation for class lessons.
- Investigative work.

Any homework set needs to be differentiated to meet the needs of individual pupils. It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure homework is appropriate to pupil need.

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to ensure that the demands of homework are manageable for all - including themselves. Planning, assessment and monitoring homework should be done in year Teams as well as by each class teacher in response to the needs of children. This includes marking pupils' homework appropriately and giving feedback to parents where necessary.

The school would encourage parents to take a full and active part in their child's homework – **but not do it for them!** Parents should set a family routine, around other commitments, to allow homework to be completed. Children benefit from routine and to succeed they need:

- A regular time when homework will take place.
- Regular, daily if possible, support or interest in their work from parents.
- An environment that is conducive to work. For example:
  - children work better for many tasks at a table;
  - children need pencils, rubbers etc.;
  - everybody concentrates more in a peaceful room.

With any task set there is always the chance that homework may create unwanted pressures. The school will try to ensure a consistent frequency of homework. This should help parents to plan. Equally, homework can be discussed at any parent/teacher consultation.

**It is vital that homework is seen by all as a tool to help children achieve their potential. However, the school believes that homework should not take over a child or family's life. The need for social interaction with others is crucial to the over all development of our children.** Some children may want to do even more work than school has set. Parents need to be vigilant over the time children spend on homework. All children – primary and secondary – need to play and be involved with other groups in the community. Sunnyside Academy recognises that board games, cards, dominoes etc. have considerable educational value. We obviously encourage parents to put some of their own time aside to play with their children in this way and at Sunnyside we actively want to share in all outside school achievements by our children. Please send in any awards, medals, certificates photos etc for events and activities which the children participate in from home.

Reviewed- March 2014

Next Review Sept 2015