



## **Leamington Hastings C of E Academy**

### **Homework Policy**

*Sowing the seeds of a lifetime love of learning in a caring, Christian community.*

### **Plant, Grow, Flourish**

**Latest policy update: September 2022**

## **Vision and Ethos**

Our vision as a Church of England Infant school, deeply rooted in a strong Christian tradition, is to develop happy children with enquiring minds. We support children to develop a spirit of curiosity and respect for themselves, others, and the environment which we live in so that they will have the skills and resilience to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

As part of the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust, we have a shared vision of 'Living life in all its fullness', educating for

- wisdom, knowledge and skills: enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.
- hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.
- community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.
- dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

Our vision draws inspiration from the Parable of the Sower, which is found in the gospel of Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 in the New Testament, reflecting our local farming community.

A farmer sows seed in a field:

- Some seed falls on the paths, and the birds quickly eat it.
- Some seed falls where there are rocks, and not much soil. Plants grow quickly but soon the sun dries them. There is not enough soil and the plants die.
- Some seeds begin to grow in a place where there are too many weeds. The weeds stop the growth of the plants and the plants die.
- But other seed falls on rich soil and receive everything they need so the plants flourish.

We strive to provide the rich soil that enables our children and adults to develop the deep roots of academic learning, learning behaviours, rich experiences and Christian values to enable them to flourish in the love and grace of God. Within our community, our Christian school nurtures growth and supports all to have the courage to face challenge and the resilience to persevere, even when confronted by difficulties. We endeavour to provide abundant opportunities which provide a platform for unique strengths and talents to blossom. We aim that everyone feels valued and has respect for themselves, others and the environment in which we live.

Our mission, as a school with a religious character, is to provide an education of depth and quality in a Christian ethos which ensures the children and adults have the nurturing and aspirational environment to reach their full potential, living life in all its fullness. To realise our mission, we endeavour to live out our vision through our school motto:

***Plant, Grow, Flourish***

This policy sets out the intentions of Leamington Hastings C of E Academy with regards to homework. Its content is underpinned by the: National Curriculum

### **Intent**

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents know what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to consolidate learning and raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to their child's learning.
- Encourage children and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge.

### **Implementation**

We recognise that there are different views towards homework and that this is not a one size fits all approach. We have a mixed approach to homework, asking parents and pupils to complete specific tasks, and providing them with an additional pick and mix menu of other tasks that they may choose to complete.

#### Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

The most important task to take place each week is reading. The aim is that children read, or are read to, five times within a week. Research has found that reading stories to children is one of the most important activities for developing the knowledge required for success in reading. Reading to children has been found to be related to language growth, speech development and reading achievement. These reading sessions should be recorded in the reading diary in the child's book bag. If children have five entries for the week (including the weekend) prior to a Thursday morning, then they will earn a raffle ticket for the half termly reading raffle.

Children will bring home one reading practice book per week. This book is matched to the school phonics scheme and contains graphemes that children are secure with; the aim is that they can read this to an adult independently and practise their reading. Adults are reminded to ask children the questions located at the back of the book.

Children will also bring home a book from the library as a sharing book, which is intended to be shared together with an adult. We have a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books available in the library for the children to choose from.

A further task provided each week is a piece of phonics homework. This sheet will be sent home at the end of the week, detailing the graphemes that children have been taught, some words and sentences to practice reading and some words to practice spelling. The sheet for the week links directly with the phonics that the children have been taught during that week.

If children and parents would like to complete further homework, there will be a pick and mix grid sent home towards the start of each half term. This grid will detail what curriculum areas the children will be focussing on at school during the half term, and what parents can do to support them further at home with additional pieces of homework. Within the maths section, parents will be directed to specific games on a maths app called Whiterose 1 minute maths. This is a downloadable app that can be added to tablets, phones and accessed on the computer. The games within the app are targeted across the Primary age group; the child's class teacher will include which games are appropriate for specific year groups and different points within the year.

Children will be provided with a homework book, where they can stick in any homework sheets or activities that they have completed.

### Nursery

Nursery children will not receive homework but will access the library where they will choose a book that interests them to share at home. Research has found that reading stories to children is one of the most important activities for developing the knowledge required for success in later reading. Reading to children has been found to be related to language growth, speech development and reading achievement. Reading should be recorded in the child's communication book.

### **Staff**

Teachers will provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents as part of their curriculum evening at the start of the year and at other times when necessary, and give guidance of how they might assist their child.

They will:

- Set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- Ensure that homework is set consistently according to this policy.
- Ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- Monitor homework when it is returned to school.

The Head of School will:

- Check compliance of the Policy.
- Meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- Discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the homework policy.
- Place the policy on the school website.

The role of Parents/carers

Families can help by:

- Supporting the school by ensuring that their child attempts the chosen homework.
- Providing a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- Encouraging and praising their child when they have completed their homework.
- Becoming actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- Making it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- Discussing homework at the Parent Consultation Meeting.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home, unless a parent requests this. We would assume the child was too ill to work. If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head of School first.