

# APPLEDORE SCHOOL

## HOMEWORK POLICY



REVIEWED BY STAFF/ADOPTED BY GOVERNORS

Reviewed	Staff meeting	Governors	16/06/15		
Initials	JC				

**“Well organised homework can play a vital role in raising standards of achievement.”**

**DfES Standards Website**

This policy is based on government guidelines which emphasise the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn, rather than focus on if it takes a certain amount of time. However the guidelines do also say how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough homework and others feel that there is too much!

The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which most people feel is reasonable and is in line with Department for Education and Science guidelines.

### **Why is homework important?**

- It raises your children's achievement
- It consolidates and extends the work they have done in school
- It helps to inform you about your children's school work and allows and gives you the opportunity to support this work
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment.

### **What sort of activities should children be doing?**

Our homework activities are related to the work your children are doing at school but will not always be written work. For young children it will usually be:

- Reading with parents or carers
- Games or activities to practice literacy, maths or other skills

For older children, homework may also include:

- Reading
- Preparing a presentation to the class
- Finding out information
- Designing or making something
- Trying out a simple scientific experiment
- Solving problems
- Completing literacy, maths or other work

### **What homework should children be doing?**

This varies with different year groups but you will be informed at the beginning of each year.

### **Feedback on childrens homework**

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or parents/carers might wish to discuss the problem with us yourself.

### **Should Parents/Carers help with homework?**

Homework allows parents and carers to see what children are doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved -as long as they do not take over too much!

Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's homework with the class teacher and if they are unsure about how much help to give teachers will always be glad to talk to parents about homework and help to get the balance right.

### **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

#### **12 things you can do to help your child learn;**

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
  - *You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.*
  - *Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".*
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.
  - *The Government encourages parents and carers to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves, for at least 20 minutes a day.*
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
  - *Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.*
4. Make use of the school library and your local library.
  - *Look out for special events and services for children.*
5. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.
  - *Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.*
6. If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about what has been watched. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.
7. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity.
8. Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
9. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
10. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.
11. Help your child to see the importance of homework and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.
12. Remind your children to complete and hand in homework on time. A copy of your child's homework programme will be provided at the start of each year but please ask if you need another one.

**Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your children to succeed.**

## **Government Guidelines on Homework:**

Taken from the following website. <http://www.direct.gov.uk> (downloaded October 2012)

The emphasis is on how homework helps your child to learn, rather than on whether it takes a certain amount of time.

For example, some children will work quicker than others and get more done in less time.

The rough guidelines for primary school children are:

- Years 1 and 2: one hour per week
- Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6: 2.5 hours per week

The guidelines for secondary school children are:

- Years 7 and 8: 45 to 90 minutes per day
- Year 9: one to two hours per day
- Years 10 and 11: 1.5 to 2.5 hours per day

Your child shouldn't be expected to spend much longer on homework than the guide times. It doesn't matter if activities don't take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful. Schools should organise homework carefully so that children aren't asked to do too much on any one day.