



# Olney Middle School

## Homework Policy

### June 2016

Agreed by R&P: 07/06/2016

Review by date: 06/2016

The policy is scheduled for review, as per the above date however if there are legal or statutory changes the policy will need to be reviewed

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### **Rationale:**

Olney Middle School is committed to setting regular homework appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. Homework is important at all stages in a child's education and when used properly, it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximise effect. Homework makes a significant contribution to the development of independent learning. Homework refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. This work will be marked where appropriate by class teachers, support staff, pupils and peers.

### **Aims of structured Homework:**

- To support children's learning opportunities via reinforcement and revision, particularly in Numeracy, Literacy and Science.
- To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and teachers to work in partnership.
- To share with parents the expectations school has regarding their child.
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences and to exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home.
- To encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.
- To equip the pupils, with the self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the increased demands of secondary school homework.

### **Recommended Time Allocation:**

***The recommended time allocation for homework for primary aged children is as follows:***

Years 3 & 4

30 minutes per week

Years 5 & 6

45 minutes per week.

This is outlined on class homework letters at the start of each academic year to clarify expectations and avoid children spending too much time on homework in addition if a child has spent the recommended time on a piece of homework but has not completed the homework, parents are invited to sign the homework and indicate how long was spent doing it in order ensure quality family time is not impacted and the child is not spending an unreasonably long time completing homework. Homework is not generally expected to be completed during holidays as the school regards holidays as an opportunity for quality family time. It should be noted that in addition to homework children will be expected to complete learning logs and spellings.

### **Homework Procedures:**

**Homework leaflets:** At the beginning of each year parents receive a class homework leaflet. This letter outlines the procedures, expectations and times / dates regarding the homework their child will receive during the term ahead. Homework letters include the following information:

- Subjects for which homework is issued,
- regularity,
- time expectations,
- days given / handed in,
- recording procedures

### **How we help pupils complete homework:**

The learning style we promote is a supportive culture enabling pupils to be honest about their difficulties, able to share their mistakes and willing to ask for help. Parents, older siblings, staff, friends and pupil mentors may be involved in helping pupils complete their homework.

Pupils should use their personal responsibility, time management skills and support outlined below to be successful in completing homework over the course of one week.

For our pupils we recommend:

- Pupils should complete their homework **early** in the week on their own to take responsibility for developing their independent learning skills and personal time management skills.
- Pupils should ask for an adult or older sibling to check / help them complete their homework **mid-week**. This is a very important opportunity to develop a child's self-checking and review skills. At first the pupil may be quite adult dependant, but during the course of the year this is expected to diminish, as the child grows in confidence, independence and personal responsibility.
- Pupils should, if necessary, bring homework into school **later in the week** if they are still struggling with it and adults at home are unable to assist. In school a pupil mentor, member of staff or friend of the pupil will provide support and encouragement to complete the homework and check it. It is important that pupils have regular breaks and therefore do not stay in for more than 5 minutes to complete work during a break time and for no more than 20 minutes during a lunch time, other opportunities to complete work include 15 minutes during guided reading time Pupils should hand in their homework **at the end of the weekly cycle** on the day prescribed in the class homework letter which is generally a Friday.

**Communication with parents:** Homework procedures provide opportunity for teachers and parents to express specific requirements, concerns or comments regarding the homework of individual children. The homework letter specifies the procedures applicable to each class which usually involves a homework log or reading diary that parents are able to write their comments. Homework logs are monitored on a regular basis by staff to assess pupil progress, to reward consistent effort and to ensure parental support in line with our home - school agreement.

**Rewards for completion of homework:** Each class teacher keeps a register of completed homework. This helps to monitor children's attitudes and achievement and helps inform discussions with parents. Children who complete homework are rewarded in line with the school's behaviour policy.

**Procedures regarding incomplete homework:** Pupils who do not complete their homework or who have not spent the recommended time trying to complete their homework will be provided time in school to finish it often with help from pupil mentors or staff to ensure the pupil understands and is confident regarding the homework content.