



Deer Park  
School  
LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

**Home Learning  
Guidelines  
2017 - 2018**

These guidelines apply to all children in the school including  
EYFS

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## 1.0 Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home tasks completed in the class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school, and in adult life.

### 1.1 Rationale:

At Deer Park School our Home Learning Guidelines aim to recognise the role of parents within a range of social and cultural home settings, as partners in creating the development of the child's self-concept as a lifelong learner.

### 1.2 Why set homework?

Homework refers to any work or activities that pupils are asked to do outside lesson time – either on their own or with parents or carers. At Deer Park School we set homework for a variety of purposes:

1. To raise attainment.
2. To improve the quality of learning experiences offered to children.
3. To promote a firm and effective partnership between parents and teachers in relation to children's learning.
4. To increase parents/carers understanding of the curriculum and provide an opportunity for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
5. To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge (e.g. reading, spellings, number bonds, times tables).
6. To encourage independent learning.
7. To extend learning in the community – e.g. through the use of the library, local environment etc.
8. To encourage our older children to develop confidence and self-confidence and self-discipline needed for study on their own and in Year 6 to prepare them for Key Stage 3.

## 2.0 Aims

In setting homework our aim is to ensure that:

1. Parents are involved in their children's learning
2. Parents are informed of what their children can and cannot do
3. Advantages are taken of the home context to extend and apply skills learned in school
4. Children are encouraged to talk about their learning
5. There is extended time for learning and opportunities are provided for extra practice of skills introduced in school
6. Children's independent learning skills are enhanced

### 3.0 Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

The government used to recommend the following as appropriate time allocations for homework activities. Deer Park School firmly believes that parents are the best guide of what is appropriate for their child.

Years Reception, 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

### 4.0 Home Learning Expectations at Deer Park School

	Reading*	Mathletics	Spellings	Challenges
<b>Reception</b>	Book of child's interest taken home each week to share and enjoy plus one Read, Write, Inc. (RWI) reading ditty sent home from the Spring Term	One challenge on shape, space and measure and one challenge on number - changed fortnightly if needed.	Set from the summer term.	Weekly home challenge. WOW moments
<b>Year 1</b>	Two RWI books sent home each week plus one library book.	Ten challenges set for pupil's ability and updated when completed.	Set weekly. From Spring term onwards phonics flashcards sent home.	Each term one project related to the current Topic.
<b>Year 2</b>	Expectation that pupils should read every night and add comments to their own reading record.	Ten challenges set for pupil's ability and updated when completed.	Year 2 common exception works sent home at beginning of year with expectation that five should be learnt per week.	Weekly home challenge related to topic, plus one larger project set each ½ term.
<b>* It is Deer Park School's recommendation that reading should be prioritised over every other aspect of homework.</b>				

## 5.0 Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- Refer back to home learning in class and use as an assessment tool.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

## 5.1 Role of the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body

- To check compliance of these guidelines.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss and review with staff regularly the appropriateness of the guidelines.

## 5.2 Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

## 6.0 Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Deer Park School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

## 7.0 General

- Wherever possible staff should try to mark any homework that is returned by pupils. Marking homework is a way of assessing what has been achieved at home and also for giving feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. However, marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.
- 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 Teacher first.**
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.