



## Homework Policy

### **Rational**

At the Lyceum, we believe that homework is for the following:

- To help children to develop the habit of working at home
- To encourage children to be self-reliant when organising their work
- To allow parents to share in their child's learning
- To reinforce or revise work done in school

### **Homework is not intended to:**

- Be an onerous chore or interfere with family life
- Cover aspects of the curriculum not already taught in school
- Be a punishment

### **Creating the right environment:**

We advise that you create a special 'work-space' for your child. Ideally, they should have their own small table or desk with their equipment all prepared for their work time. Where this is not possible owing to lack of space, they should keep their things neatly in a storage box, so they do not waste time looking for pencils, rulers etc. Children work best without distractions and in a quiet and tidy environment. Sometimes playing classical music quietly in the background can aid concentration. If your child is tired or hungry, find another time to complete the tasks.

Please do let your teacher know if your child is finding the homework too difficult or takes a long time to complete it. If homework is taking too long, or if your child does not understand it, parents are encouraged to stop the activity and write a note in the homework diary, or in the message book.

### **Getting the right balance:**

We believe that family time, sporting activities, music practice, getting adequate sleep and having a relaxing time at home are vital to the wellbeing of the children; we do not recommend that you spend hours of home time forcing your child to do homework. It is important that children become self-motivated and want to improve their own skills and overbearing parenting can be counterproductive. If there is an important occasion over the weekend that prevents your child from doing their work, please inform the class teacher who will be understanding. Creating a regular homework routine is important as children thrive in a structured environment. Parents should sign and date the homework diary or message book each day.

### **How much time should be spent on homework at each session?**

Each child learns differently, and some will take much longer than others to do their work. It is important to observe your child and if they are getting tired or restless then they may need a movement break or may need to stop working altogether.

As a very rough guide, we advise that homework (inclusive of reading) takes **no more** than the following times for each homework session:

Year Group	Time spent on homework
Early Years	10-15 mins
Year 1	15-20 mins
Year 2	20-25 mins
Year 3	25-30 mins
Year 4	30-35 mins
Year 5	35-40 mins
Year 6	40-60 mins (depending on the time of year)

### **Incomplete Homework**

No child will be reprimanded for very occasionally not completing homework. However, there is an expectation that homework will be finished on time.

### **Homework in Early Years Foundation Stage**

In the Early Years, homework consists of reading and simple learning activities. These are introduced when the teachers feel that the children are ready for them. Parents are encouraged to use the Reading Records to write comments related to their child's progress and their enjoyment of reading.

### **Homework in Key Stage 1**

Homework in Key Stage 1 consists of daily reading, regular handwriting practice, learning spelling and times tables (when the children are ready) for weekly tests, an English task, a Maths task, and occasional topic related activities.

### **Homework in Key Stage 2**

In Years 3, 4 and 5, the amount of homework gradually increases, often consisting of English, Maths, Verbal and Non-verbal reasoning, spelling, and times tables. On occasion, finishing off tasks will be set relating to aspects of Topic or Science. Pupils in Key Stage 2 should read daily, and parents are asked to sign homework diaries each evening.

### **Homework in Year 6**

In the first term of Year 6, the volume of homework increases significantly as the children prepare for secondary school exams. Homework tasks consist of English, Maths, Verbal and Non-verbal reasoning, spellings, and times tables, sometimes more than one homework task will be set each evening. On occasion, finishing off tasks will be set relating to aspects of topic or Science. Pupils in Key Stage 2 should read daily, and parents are asked to sign homework diaries each evening.

Towards the end of Year 6, as a preparation for senior school, multiple homework tasks are set. This helps pupils develop their time management skills and work to deadlines. These tasks are designed to develop research skills and require a more in-depth response. Pupils are given school email addresses and encouraged to communicate with teachers and submit some completed assignments via this route.