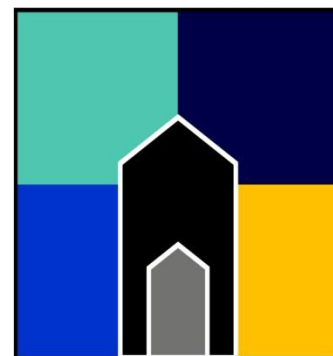




**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust



## **An Daras Multi-Academy Trust**

# **Homework Policy**

The An Daras Multi Academy Trust (ADMAT) Company  
An Exempt Charity Limited by Guarantee  
Company Number/08156955

Status: <b>Approved</b>	
Recommended	
Version	v1.1
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Linked Documents and Policies	

## St Stephens Community Academy

### Homework Policy

Reviewed and adopted – **January 2016**

Reviewed by the ADMAT Board of Directors – **January 2016**

Reviewed and adopted- **March 2017**

#### 1. Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework. It is part of a wider partnership between home and school, forming part of the home/school agreement.

#### 2. Rationale

2.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper Excellence in Schools, where homework was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

2.2 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

#### 3. Aims/ Purpose of Homework:

- To provide a consistent approach to these activities throughout the school based on continuity and progression appropriate to the needs of the pupil.
- To support and consolidate pupil's learning, reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in regard to numeracy and literacy.

- To increase pupil's confidence in using those skills which enable them to become independent learners.
- To develop a sense of self-discipline and responsibility.
- To meet the needs of individual pupils.
- To extend and exploit resources for learning at home and the wider community.
- To further develop an active partnership between the school, the pupil and parent/carers in supporting a child's learning
- To prepare pupils for the expectations of secondary education re: homework.
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- To consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

#### **4. Guidelines:**

4.1 Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

4.2 Class teachers will monitor the completion of homework, providing feedback to the pupils on the quality of the homework and how it could be improved next time. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up.

4.3 We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

4.4 If homework is not completed, in line with the school behaviour policy, a strike will be given for any incomplete homework.

4.5 Homework tasks should be enjoyable and matched appropriately to the pupil's abilities. The amount of homework set will generally increase in relation to the pupil's age.

4.6 It is important that pupils and parents/carers see a purpose in the homework set and that they are clear about what they need to do.

4.7 Parents/carers are treated as partners in their children's learning and it is for this reason that we keep them informed of the homework set.

4.8 Our homework policy will be regularly monitored and evaluated to check that it supports the children's learning in the best possible way. Feedback can be given by parents and teachers in homework comment slips (See Appendix).

4.9 Every effort will be made by the class teacher to encourage pupils to complete homework activities on time. Should this prove ineffective class teachers will discuss the matter with parents/carers during Parent Interviews – involving the pupil if appropriate.

4.10 If, for some reason, homework tasks cannot be completed at home, pupils will be encouraged to attend the weekly a Homework Club held in the ICT room or supported during school time.

## **5. Homework Expectations for each Year Group:**

St Stephens Community Academy provides homework books for all children to keep their homework in a collection together. For all classes homework is set on a Friday and needs to be handed in on a Wednesday apart from Year Six where homework is set a Friday and handed in on a Monday.

### **Yr F**

Reading (daily)

1 piece of English work per week related to work completed during the week to consolidate learning from in school e.g. Phonics Sounds

1 piece of Maths work per week related to work completed during the week to consolidate learning from in school

Looking for items for display – as requested.

Topic related projects – as requested. 1 per half term.

### **Yr1**

Reading (daily)

Spelling: Children are given the list of common exception words for Year 1. Children can be encouraged to practice these at home.

Children are set homework through a homework menu (See example in Appendix) each half term. The homework menu includes activities on English and Maths from their class learning. The homework Menu includes Maths homework using children's own 'My Maths' login book. The menu also includes Topic based learning. The menu is divided into sections to show activities that children can complete independently as a follow up to class learning but the menu will also include activities that can be completed together as a family. Children are expected to select an activity to complete each week.

## **Yr2**      Reading (daily)

Spelling: Children are given the list of common exception words for Year 1/2. Children can be encouraged to practice these at home.

Children are set homework through a homework menu each half term. The homework menu includes activities on English and Maths from their class learning. The homework Menu includes Maths homework using children's own 'My Maths' login book. The menu also includes Topic based learning. The menu is divided into sections to show activities that children can complete independently as a follow up to class learning but the menu will also include activities that can be completed together as a family. Children are expected to select an activity to complete each week.

**Sanctions:** As suggested by pupil forum: A strike will be given for any incomplete homework from Year Two.

## **Yr3 Key Stage Two- We would expect children to do more tasks independently**

### Reading (daily)

Spelling: Children are given the list of common exception words for Year 3/4. Children can be encouraged to practice these at home. These will be placed in their reading record. Children can share with school their at home spellings if parents wish to test their child at home.

Regular multiplication tables practice for a weekly in school test.

Children are set homework through a homework menu each half term. The homework menu includes activities on English and Maths from their class learning. The homework Menu includes Maths homework using children's own 'My Maths' login book. The menu also includes Topic based learning. The menu is divided into sections to show activities that children can complete independently as a follow up to class learning but the menu will also include activities that can be completed together as a family. Children are expected to select an activity to complete each week.

**Sanctions:** A strike will be given for any incomplete homework.

## **Yr4**      Reading (daily)

Spelling: Children are given the list of common exception words for Year 3/4.

Children can be encouraged to practice these at home. These will be placed in their reading record. Children can share with school their at home spellings if parents wish to test their child at home.

Regular multiplication tables practice for a weekly in school test.

Children are set homework through a homework menu each half term. The homework menu includes activities on English and Maths from their class learning. The homework Menu includes Maths homework using children's own 'My Maths' login book. The menu also includes Topic based learning. The menu is divided into sections to show activities that children can complete independently as a follow up to class learning but the menu will also include activities that can be completed together as a family. Children are expected to select an activity to complete each week.

**Sanctions:** A strike will be given for any incomplete homework.

## Yr5

Reading (daily)

Spelling: Children are given the list of common exception words for Year 5/6. Children can be encouraged to practice these at home. These will be placed in their reading record. Children can share with school their at home spellings if parents wish to test their child at home.

Regular multiplication tables practice for a weekly in school test.

Children are set homework through a homework menu each half term. The homework menu includes activities on English and Maths from their class learning. The homework Menu includes Maths homework using children's own 'My Maths' login book. The menu also includes Topic based learning. The menu is divided into sections to show activities that children can complete independently as a follow up to class learning but the menu will also include activities that can be completed together as a family. Children are expected to select an activity to complete each week.

**Sanctions:** A strike will be given for any incomplete homework.

## Yr6

Homework for Year Six is set a Friday and handed in on a Monday.

Reading (daily)

Spelling: Children are given the list of common exception words for Year 5/6. Children can be encouraged to practice these at home. These will be placed in their reading record. Children can share with school their at home spellings if parents wish to test their child at home.

Regular multiplication tables practice for a weekly in school test.

Maths homework using children's own 'My Maths' login book (weekly)

English and Maths Homework Books.

**Sanctions:** A strike will be given for any incomplete homework.

Each term there will be a display of family learning projects for celebration. The school will also provide opportunities for parents to come and learn together with family learning workshops lead by the pastoral team on a termly basis.

## **6. Amount of homework**

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend a suggestion of 15– 20 minutes per night on homework, and children in years 5 and 6 to spend a suggestion of 30 minutes per night. This is in line with the DfES guidelines that were issued in 1998. This includes time spent reading with parents.

## **7. Home Reading and Rewards**

All children are encouraged to read for pleasure on a regular basis and to widen their scope for reading to include newspapers, magazines etc. Children across the school are taking part in the reading stars reward. If children read for 5 consecutive days and this is recorded in their reading record home log children will earn 1 star and credits are awarded. When children have completed their reading book mark they will receive a small token e.g. pencil.

1 star= 2 credits

2 stars=2 credits

3 stars= 5 credits

The school provides a certificate to children as they move a country in our whole school times table progression. These are given to children in our Friday celebration assembly. To reward those children that complete homework every week we will be presenting them with a gift/ token at the end of the half term in certificate assembly.

## **8. Inclusion**

The purpose of homework applies equally to all pupils. Activities need to be differentiated appropriately and matched to individual needs, supporting targets in literacy and numeracy as identified in learning passports. These activities will be fully discussed with parents/carers during the joint meeting with Class teacher and/ or SENDICO, when completing the learning passport. The Learning Passport will include details on how a parent/carer can give additional practise in those areas that enable their child to achieve his/her targets.

## **9. The role of parent/carer**

9.1 Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parent/carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parent/carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

9.2 Parent/carers are informed of the homework expectations in each class during class meetings and in termly class overviews.

9.3 If parent/carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Key Stage Leader/ or the Head of School. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way it is implemented; parents should contact the governing body.

## **10 Use of Computing**

10.1 The use of Computing and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. For independent learning it is not support for children to download and print out something that has been written by somebody else, without making sense of it themselves and then using this to produce their own outcome.

10.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website is being developed to provide links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parent/carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

10.3 We discourage children from bringing computer memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is emailed to the school office and their email address.

## **11 Monitoring and review**



11.1 It is the responsibility of our Senior Leadership team and local governing body to agree the policy. The school senior leadership team then monitor the school homework policy. Parents complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection. The Senior leadership team and local governing body pay careful consideration to any concern that are raised by a parent.

11.2 This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

Policy first agreed – **January 2016**

Policy published on website – **January 2016**

Policy reviewed and reviewed– **March 2017**

Policy published on website – **March 2017**

Signed..... Chair LGAB

Signed..... Head of School

Signed..... Executive Head Teacher

Date.....

Appendix: Feedback to Children/ Parents:

Parental Comment	Teacher Comment

## Appendix: Homework Menu Example:

### St Stephens Community Academy. Homework Menu. Year Two. Summer Term. Oh I do like to be by the Seaside!

The aim of this homework is to build upon the skills that are your strengths and also to improve those areas where you may feel less confident.

**We are not suggesting doing all these jobs. We would suggest 3 verbal sessions a week, 1 Maths and we leave the other choice of activities for you to decide.**

Multiple Intelligences		Easiest			Hardest
Verbal I enjoy reading, writing & speaking	Reading	Talk about the books with pictures  Reading 200 key words.	Read school reading book.	Answer questions about the book. Using suggested questions in reading record.	Complete a response to read activities see Fiction/ Non Fiction Menu in reading records.
	Handwriting and Writing	Form letters using cursive handwriting grid	Spell all the words from the 200 list.	Collect and find homophones such as here/ hear or see/ sea	Write your own story using the narrative success criteria.
	Phonics and Spelling	Form letters using cursive handwriting grid	Spell words at home in a creative way.	Spell common exception words.	Spell words with plurals/ suffixes and prefixes.
Mathematical- I enjoy working with numbers & science		Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20.	Timetables 2/5/10/3/4/6 You could use different sea creatures for this	My Maths.	Maths Challenge Task
<b>Family Learning Projects:</b> Visual I enjoy painting, drawing & visualising		Draw your own mermaid. Name her and describe what she can do. You could use seaweed as her hair!	Find out the most deadly animal in the sea and make it. Create your own sea fossils.	Research creatures that live at the seaside and draw and describe them.	Research and find out about the habitats seaside creatures start in. Perhaps create some of your own.
<b>Family Learning Projects:</b> Kinaesthetic I enjoy doing hands-on activities		Make your own crab or other sea creature using materials of your choice.	Make your own seaside scene/ collage. Select different materials. This could be a 3D in shoe box.	List all the seaside animals. Are they different now from the past? Make some of them.	Make your own seaside masks to add to a story.
Musical I enjoy making & Listening to music		Make own shell and create your own sea side/ water noises.	Make shell necklace and consider a pattern that you could create with sounds.	Make your own instruments using materials from the beach e.g. shells.	Create your own theme song about the seaside. Create your own seaside rhyme.