

<b>Policy</b>	Homework		
<b>Reviewer</b>	George Lumley		
<b>Reviewed</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	<b>Next review</b>	August 2022
<b>Relevant States of Jersey Education policies</b>			

### VCP Homework Policy

This policy aims to ensure staff, pupils, and parents, are aware of homework expectations at VCP.

A survey of pupils, parents and staff on their opinions of homework was completed to help shape this policy. Homework was raised as a discussion point at various Parent Community Discussion Groups to ascertain an understanding of the parent voice on homework. Educational research was also used to inform the decision-making process as to what homework at VCP is to entail.

Our research showed a lack of consistency across the school with experiences of homework, and as a result this policy aims to provide greater clarity and consistency across classes and year groups in homework expectations, and what is expected of the pupils.

70% of parents surveyed said that homework can cause additional stress at home. At VCP we strongly believe in supporting our pupils and families and we want to address this concerning statistic by improving the homework experience for all involved.

There is a little empirical evidence to suggest that homework improves learning outcomes for primary age school children, and none of our teaching staff use homework as a means of assessing pupils' understanding - as the levels of parental support between pupils will always vary.

From the survey, it is clear that many parents and staff agree that some additional practice of key skills can help develop confidence in certain areas, and some home-learning can help establish positive routines. As a school, we strongly believe in developing strong lines of communication with home to ensure we are working together to support pupils' learning and to keep parents up to date with what their children are learning in school.

From September 2020, the following processes will be followed:

**Year 3 and Year 4** will receive the following homework:

**Reading** - Pupils should read with an adult for a minimum of 10 minutes a day. Pupils are encouraged to read for pleasure and choose books that interest them and challenge them. The homework diary can be used to record the books read using the reading record at the back of the diary. There is also a section in the homework diary to record the amount of pages read each day.

**Spelling** – We use the Spelling Shed scheme of work to teach spellings throughout VCP and ensure that the Year Group Curriculum Words are learnt. Each pupil has a unique log-in to Spelling Shed and can use the programme to practice their weekly spellings through a variety of online activities and progress can be monitored. New spelling words are set each week, and pupils will be taught spelling rules and patterns in class. Each week they will be tested on their words. Each pupil also has a Spelling book to record their spelling words for that week and to record how they got on with their spelling test.

**Maths Fluency** – A weekly maths fluency homework will be set to help pupils develop their mental maths skills. This will complement the maths fluency work we do in school, and greatly assist pupils in maths lessons where they will be using their fluency skills to support their written and spoken reasoning and problem solving.

**Year 5 and Year 6** will receive the following homework:

**Reading** - Pupils should read with an adult for a minimum of 10 minutes a day. Pupils are encouraged to read for pleasure and choose books that interest them and challenge them. The homework diary can be used to record the books read using the reading record at the back of the diary. There is also a section in the homework diary to record the amount of pages read each day.

**Spelling** – We use the Spelling Shed scheme of work to teach spellings throughout VCP and ensure that the Year Group Curriculum Words are learnt. Each pupil has a unique log-in to Spelling Shed and can use the programme to practice their weekly spellings through a variety of online activities and progress can be monitored. New spelling words are set each week, and pupils will be taught spelling rules and patterns in class. Each week they will be tested on their words. Each pupil also has a Spelling book to record their spelling words for that week and to record how they got on with their spelling test.

**Maths** – A weekly maths homework will be set which may be of a fluency nature, or may be practising some of the concepts and knowledge taught in class that week. Maths homework should be a consolidation of what has been taught in class, and guidance will be given by teachers where a particular method should be followed. We ask parents to support us in following our curriculum policy if supporting their son with their homework to ensure we don't end up confusing the pupils by teaching conflicting methods.

**All classes across the school** –



To ensure parents are kept up to date with what their child is learning at school, we provide the following:

A weekly 'Learning Log' will be sent home outlining the following:

- Highlights of the week – this section will have a number of bullet points to tell parents about some of the things pupils have been learning about this week. These can be used by parents as a starting point for discussion with their son, about what they have learnt this week. Teachers may give questions to help prompt these discussions as a 'Talk about.'
- Other ideas to support the curriculum – this section will have an **optional** activity which pupils may undertake to help support their learning. It may be offering ideas of an experience that could be shared at the weekend, an idea for a learning activity, or even a challenge. Pupils are encouraged to share what they do with their teacher, but there is no formal expectation that this is completed.
- Stop Press – this section may have any last minute reminders or things to remember for the following week. i.e. Don't forget your art aprons next week as we are planning to paint.

All pupils have access to SeeSaw. Throughout the term, pupils will be encouraged to upload examples of their work in school to share with parents at home. There is also a termly parent drop in session for parents to come in to school and see some of the work their son has completed that term.

The Homework Diary may be used to record notices, maths homework tasks and deadlines. Both parents and teachers are expected to check and sign the homework diary each day. This also provides a space for parent/teacher communication – although it is advised the notes of immediate importance are communicated directly (e.g. via email, phone, or through the office.)