

# **West Exmoor Federation**



## **A Policy for Homework**

**May 2009**

## **West Exmoor Federation - A Policy for Homework**

**Rationale:** Homework can support and reinforce the work which is being carried out in school and can provide a means where parents/carers can take an active part in their child's education thus enhancing links between home and school.

### **Aims and**

**Objectives:** To support, reinforce and enhance the learning undertaken in school.

To give children additional supervised time during which they can practise independent learning skills.

To enable parents/carers to participate in their children's learning.

To give parents/carers an insight into the curriculum.

To create a disciplined approach to homework as a preparation for secondary school.

To enhance school standards of achievement.

### **Guidelines: Homework Tasks:**

- The most valuable homework a parent/carer can carry out with their child is to hear them read regularly and to share books with them in a positive and constructive way. Helping a child to read and to develop a love of books is one of the most important and influential factors in children's educational development.
- It is recommended that children will spend at least 20 minutes a day either reading with or to\* their parents or carers (\*depending on their ability).
- In addition to this a range of appropriate Numeracy , Literacy and Topic tasks will be set.
- Year 6 will be given revision for KS2 tests as the test period approaches. This will replace all other homework activities.

### **Special Needs:**

Consideration will be given to the varying abilities of children with Special Needs. Where normal homework activities are considered inappropriate, other activities will be offered in consultation with parents.

### **General Notes:**

The DCSF recommend that children should be spending about one hour a week on homework at KS1 and that demands should gradually increase so that by Years 5 and 6 children are spending about 30 minutes a day on homework.

Good primary school practice requires that we give credence to other developmental needs of the child. Within the Federation schools we appreciate the value of extra curricular activities, (sport, music, dance, drama, the uniformed groups, other hobbies etc.) A well balanced, healthy child should be encouraged to develop their particular interests in a range of these activities in their own time.

Care must be taken by parents to gently encourage, rather than pressurise. This can have a negative effect on learning and children can easily become disaffected or 'turned off' a particular subject at school. We want children to enjoy their learning!

Although we would encourage parents/carers to support their children with their homework, care must be taken not to intervene too much and end up doing it for them. It is important that the staff see what they are capable of doing themselves.

There are many ways of supporting set homework tasks and also other ways in which a parent/carer can assist their child with learning at home as follows:

- *Sharing books - visiting libraries - providing them with varied and interesting reading material i.e. magazines.*
- *Encouraging them to watch educational T.V. programs, especially when connected with a topic being undertaken in school.*
- *Taking them on visits of educational interest during a family holiday.*
- *Allowing them to help with shopping and calculate overall costs.*
- *Giving them access to a computer/CD ROM if you have one.*
- *Encouraging them to take up an outside hobby/interest.*
- *Taking them to music shows and interesting films.*