



# Lime Tree Primary Academy

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## Homework Policy

Date	Review Date	Homework Lead	Nominated Governor
October 2023	October 2026	Lauren Slack	Iain Wilson

## TO NURTURE, TO GROW, TO DREAM

LIME TREE EXISTS to push the boundaries and challenge the ordinary, enabling learning construction that is truly accessible for all, through research, innovation and creativity we champion education as the vehicle to ignite passions, discover talent, nurture self-belief and become the very heart of our community.

We believe and strive for, skilled knowledgeable independent and resilient learners, creative, imaginative structured and adaptable thinkers, world aware community spirited caring and healthy individuals

### Purpose

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside teaching time. Homework is given to enable children to consolidate, extend and enrich their learning attitudes. Homework is an opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting their child's learning.

Lime Tree Primary Academy seeks to maintain a balance between the amount of homework given and the need for rest and leisure time when children can pursue other interests.

We hope that homework is enjoyable for the child and that it will stimulate imagination and creativity as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Homework can cover a wide range of activities depending upon the age and ability of the child. In our school, there is a consistent emphasis on reading for pleasure and purpose as part of homework. In maths, the emphasis is placed upon knowing and handling number facts and their application, e.g. number bonds and multiplication tables and upon problem solving activities.

At Lime Tree, homework is seen as a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the academy day. As such, at Lime Tree we believe homework requires a vital commitment by teachers, pupils and parents. Teachers at the school are required to set homework under this policy.

### Aims and Objectives

We believe, that at Lime Tree Primary Academy, all pupils have the right to learn in an engaging, stimulating and

stretching environment. We believe that parents, carers, children and the school should work together in partnership in relation to children's learning. As such, we wish to improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.

Home learning is important because it provides an excellent means:

- To develop the partnership between home and school.
- To consolidate and reinforce what is learnt in the classroom.
- To build up basic skills (particularly reading and numeracy).
- To become curious and independent learners.
- To develop good study habits.
- To prepare for the next stage of education.
- To encourage organisation.

Home learning set at Lime Tree is meant to fulfil these aims.

It is important that every child sees that home and school are working together to provide help, support and encouragement. Homework can help to promote a positive attitude to learning at home and provides a vital link between home and school.

Our homework policy is **not**:

- Designed to create anxiety, undue pressure or conflict between parents and children.
- An afterthought at the end of a lesson.

## **Rationale**

We believe that homework supports, extends and consolidates the learning covered in the classroom while supporting children to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

## **Setting Homework**

### **EYFS:**

Pupils in Nursery and Reception will not be set homework each week. Instead, recommended activities include:

- Reading books and key words
- Reciting nursery rhymes
- Identifying shapes in the environment
- Counting toys and objects
- Fastening and unfastening buttons, zips and tying shoelaces
- Getting dressed and undressed

### **Key Stage 1:**

Homework will be shared via Google Classroom every Friday and will be due in the following Thursday. It will always be clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom. Additional homework may be given at the teacher's discretion. Homework should be completed to the same quality as class-based work. Whilst homework is optional, we highly recommend its completion as it enhances the learning experience from the classroom and offers children the best chance to excel academically.

### **Key Stage 2:**

Homework will be shared via Google Classroom every Friday and will be due in the following Thursday. It will always be clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom. It is expected that parents encourage greater independence as children move into upper Key Stage 2. Additional homework may be given at the teacher's discretion. Homework should be completed to the same quality as class-based work. Whilst homework is optional, we

highly recommend its completion as it enhances the learning experience from the classroom and offers children the best chance to excel academically.

In Year 6, homework may cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content. In Year 6, homework is compulsory and children will be expected to complete homework in school if it has not been handed in. This is to ease transition into Year 7.

### **Pupils with SEND:**

Homework is adapted to ensure it meets the needs of all children. Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special educational needs and disabilities is key. Some children may benefit from bespoke tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class. On the other hand, it is important that pupils should do as much in common with their peers as possible. We will aim to set appropriate homework for our pupils with additional needs. Tasks should:

- Have a very clear focus and time-guideline.
- Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed.
- Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary.
- Be varied – and not purely written assignments.
- Be manageable for teachers.

### **Additional Home Learning Opportunities**

Alongside homework shared on Google Classroom, we believe regular reading is an important homework activity for all pupils. All pupils from Reception to Year 6 will have access to online reading quizzes either through Bug Club or our Accelerated Reader scheme. There is an expectation that reading at home will happen a minimum of three times a week. It is important for parents and carers to read with children and to discuss books, pictures and stories, even when they are in Year 6.

Children in Year 1 have access to NumBots. NumBots is a fun and engaging way for our younger pupils to boost their skills in a range of areas as well their confidence. It is aimed at improving children's subitising skills and counting as well as recall and understanding of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts. Further up the school, TT Rock Stars is available to all students from Years 2 - 6, and we strongly urge children to make use of this at home to enhance their times tables proficiency. We understand that the ability to swiftly recall multiplication facts underpins most mathematical concepts, providing students with a solid base upon which to build their mathematical knowledge.

### **Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure**

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy. Maintaining a high standard of home learning is the responsibility of all governors, staff, parents, carers and pupils.

### **Role of Pupils**

In setting homework, we plan to establish a familiar routine for pupils and parents. As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning. We expect pupils to:

- Make their parents aware of any homework given by the teacher.
- Ask for help if it is needed.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability and maintain the same standards of presentation expected in the classroom.
- Ensure that homework is handed in on time if a deadline is given by the teacher.

## **Role of Parents and Cares**

Parents play a vital role in their children's lasting success. We aim to involve parents wherever possible in supporting their child's learning.

Each child is provided with a reading log or diary (YR to Y6) which invites parents to comment upon and sign on a daily/weekly basis.

We recommend that parents give a little time every day for homework rather than an intensive period once or twice a week. Parents can help with homework in different ways at different stages.

Parents will:

- Make it clear to pupils how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Praise and encourage pupils when they take pride in their homework.
- Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions such as television, where pupils can concentrate on their homework. If this is difficult, parents might encourage pupils to attend other places where homework can be completed, such as libraries.
- Encourage pupils of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible.
- Ensure reading logs or diaries are filled in as appropriate.

## **Role of School Personnel**

All teachers will adhere to the homework policy and will monitor to determine that these aims are being met and that the full range of types of homework are being set consistently.

We value our children's efforts to extend their learning and will ensure that:

- Teachers will give verbal feedback.
- Praise and recognition will be given regularly.
- Parents/teachers will monitor reading logs and diaries.

## **Role of the Head of School**

The Head of School will work closely with the link governor and coordinator to ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy consistently. The Head of School will also ensure that this policy is monitored and evaluated and any recommendations for improvement are reported to the governing body.

## **Role of the Governing Body**

The Local Governing Body has the responsibility of approving this policy, reviewing its effectiveness and holding members of staff to account where necessary. The Governing Body has also nominated a link governor to visit the academy regularly, to liaise with the Head of School and to report back to the Governing Body.

## Equality Impact Statement

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

## Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed every 36 months or when the need arises by the coordinator, the Head of School and the nominated governor.

A statement of the policy's effectiveness and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be presented to the Governing Body for further discussion and endorsement.

<b>Head of School:</b>	Clare Larkin	<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Chair of Governing Body:</b>	Dan Jagger	<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023

