# ORRETS MEADOW SCHOOL

**POLICY DOCUMENT**

**for**

**Homework**

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on \_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

To raise the aspirations of every child and give them the confidence to fulfil their potential through positive learning experiences.

Homework and the support of parents and carers at home, is recognised as vitally important to a child’s successful learning. At Orrets Meadow we value the efforts of parents to help their child make the best progress they can. We also want to break down the negative feelings our pupils often have about reading and writing so hope that it will be a positive experience for all.

Children with difficulties in acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills, often have poor memories and find it hard to process and recall information. Over-learning and repetition form a major part of our learning programme and homework gives the opportunity to practise again what they have learnt at school.

Mental Health and Well being

Homework is an important part in ensuring consistency and overlearning for all pupils. The mental health and well- being of all pupils at Orrets Meadow is paramount and consideration has been made to provide a balanced programme of work. However if at any time a child becomes distressed, worried or upset, then the teacher should be notified to ensure that any problems can be addressed.

**Aims**

1. To use ‘best practise’ techniques to help children with a range of learning difficulties. (Specific Learning Difficulties / ASC)
2. To revise and reinforce the skills taught at school.
3. To keep parents informed and involved in what the child is doing in school and the progress made, thus creating an effective home-school partnership.
4. At Year 6 – to prepare the children for transfer to Secondary school.

Homework should take the pupils approximately 20-30 minutes to complete and may take the form of:

i Parents sharing a child’s reading,

ii Helping their child practise their Probes, keywords and revision cards.

iii Reinforcement exercises of a spelling rule,

iv Mathematical activities at least once a week,

V From time to time, parents and children being asked to

 gather information for a topic.

Parents of new pupils will be informed about the Homework Policy and sign a ‘Home School Agreement’ expressing their willingness to give their support. The school provides a homework book and bag which go home every night. As well as the set homework, messages can be written in the book so it acts as a link between home and school. If a child is to be off school for any length of time and is able to do homework, the Class Teacher will provide suitable material if it can be collected or delivered.

A ‘Meet the teacher’ evening is held each September where homework routines are explained. Further support is offered in the form of periodic workshops run by the parent coordinator.

Children who fail to complete their homework may be kept in at Playtime at the discretion of the member of staff involved; or, they can attend Homework Club, which is held at lunchtimes.

Parents can really help their child make progress if they ensure they are organised and ‘ready for school’ with homework signed and returned to school each day.

Recognition of a child’s efforts in homework can be highlighted in the Friday Assembly.

Marking Homework – (also see Academic Guidance Policy)

We mark in green, not red and mark those items that are the focus of the learning eg the particular spelling pattern. We use positive feedback such as smiley faces, stickers or just a plain ‘Thank you’ in the homework book to acknowledge the help parents and carers have given.

In addition to set homework, children have access to online learning in the form of Mathletics and Bug Club.

**Strategies for Parents helping with Homework**

* Establish a routine, taking into account family arrangements.
* Try to provide the child with a distraction-free room.
* Put a time limit on: 20-30 minutes.
* Put a note in the homework book if there are any problems, so we can help to sort them out.
* Parents and teachers should make it clear to pupils that they value homework and encourage and praise the child when the homework is completed.

**Monitoring**

Members of the Senior Leadership Team will monitor homework and report back to staff. This is valuable both in monitoring the work set and the extent of parental involvement.