

# 2021 WHOLE SCHOOL HOMEWORK SURVEY



MARCH 2021  
ALDERLEY EDGE CP SCHOOL

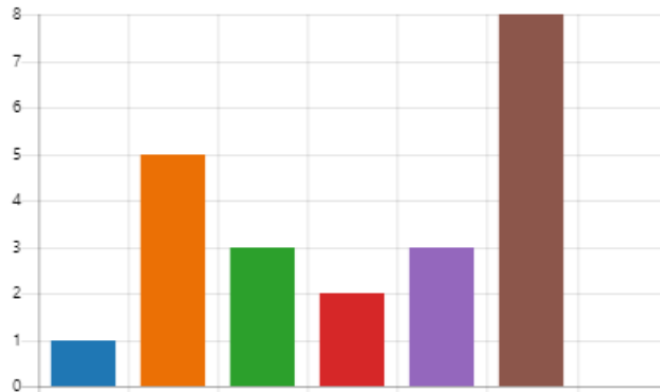
<b>Context:</b>	<p>In 2021, the school's homework policy and practise was due for review by staff and Governors.</p> <p>As part of the process the views of parents and children was considered important.</p> <p>The parent body were asked to contribute to an online survey.</p> <p>The survey coincided with the end of a period of school closures and home learning and parents were asked to consider their responses in light of 'normal' homework arrangements.</p> <p>However, during the latest school closure, Microsoft Teams was used extensively for home learning in replacement of the VLE. Therefore a question regarding this as a preferred method of communication was included.</p> <p>Response rate – 10%</p>
<b>Areas of Strength:</b>	<p>90% indicated that homework has an importance in school life with 86% recognising its value for learning</p> <p>Online games and reading were the most preferred type of homework</p> <p>86% of responses supported TEAMS being used for the communication and setting of homework. No one disagreed.</p>
<b>Areas of Consideration for the Senior Leadership Team:</b>	<p>The amount of homework set</p> <p>Marking and feedback of homework</p> <p>Use of TEAMS for homework</p>
<b>Next Steps:</b>	<p>Sharing of report with school community including staff, governors and parents</p> <p>Meeting of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss and address the areas highlighted</p> <p>Review of the homework policy and practise</p> <p>Staff training</p>



### 1. My child is in ....

[More Details](#)

● Reception	1
● Year 1	5
● Year 2	3
● Year 3	2
● Year 4	3
● Year 5	8
● Year 6	0



### 2. Homework is an important part of school life

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	3
● Agree	13
● Neither agree nor disagree	3
● Disagree	2
● Strongly disagree	1



### 3. Homework is an important part of learning for children

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	4
● Agree	11
● Neutral	3
● Disagree	3
● Strongly disagree	1



#### 4. My child gets the right amount of homework

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	0
● Agree	8
● Neutral	5
● Disagree	8
● Strongly disagree	1



#### 5. My child is able to complete their homework independently

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	4
● Agree	7
● Neutral	3
● Disagree	5
● Strongly disagree	3



#### 6. My child enjoys doing homework

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	2
● Agree	2
● Neutral	8
● Disagree	7
● Strongly disagree	3



#### 7. Feedback is given to my child (verbally or marking) on their homework

[More Details](#)

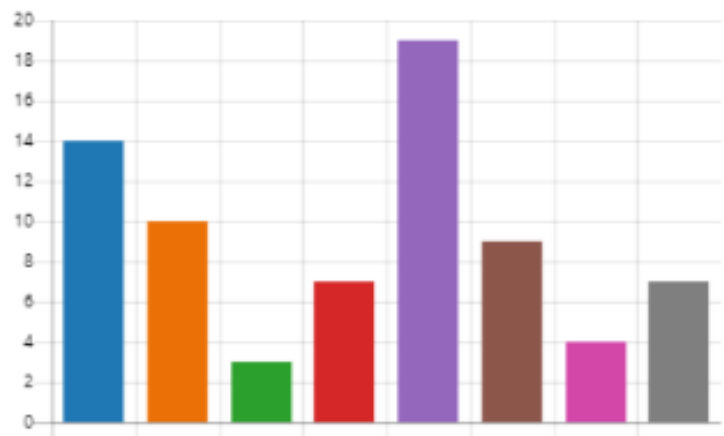
● Always	5
● Very often	7
● Sometimes	7
● Rarely	1
● Never	2



### 8. Which type of homework does your child enjoy

[More Details](#)

● reading	14
● maths written	10
● writing	3
● projects	7
● online activities and games	19
● topic based homework	9
● research	4
● practical tasks to make or crea...	7



### 9. I would prefer my child to have only reading and number bonds/timetables and spelling for homework

[More Details](#)

● Yes	11
● No	11



### 10. Overall, do you support homework being given on a weekly basis?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	17
● No	5



11. Currently the school communicates homework and messages for classes on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). As all children now have Microsoft TEAMS accounts, we propose to replace the VLE with TEAMS only. Therefore only using one, central platform for communication about classes and homework. Do you support the replacement of the VLE with TEAMS.

[More Details](#)

● Yes	19
● Maybe	3
● No	0



Anonymous comment	Response from School
<p>Post lockdown and homeschooling, I would like to see a nice stretch of time without having to think about homework or schooling. I think you will find in this survey that virtually all parents are burned out, and one trigger away from a straightjacket. I believe home life/family time is sacrosanct. At work, I rarely work outside of business hours unless it is critical, and I will not burden my team with work that will interfere with their personal time (family life/downtime) unless it is absolutely necessary. If the allotted work can not be completed in business hours, then the work load needs to be re-assessed. If I think about school as my child's job, I have a cognitive disconnect with expecting them to work out of hours because I would not expect my team at work to do that...and I think it sets them up to accept taking home work every night, which doesn't set the stage for a healthy work-life balance in the future and will lead to mental health issues and burnout. That being said, I do recognise that things like reading and maths are largely practice, so I am not averse to reading every day and doing some maths, bearing in mind that my children still require a lot of support to complete work. A quick scan of the pedagogical literature appears to suggest that homework at this age is only effective when it's no more than 10-20 minutes per evening, which isn't always possible for many families, mine included – as we have swimming, Rainbows, horseback riding, singing, dance as extracurricular activities, that I think are of equal importance. I am happy to earmark my child's time to reading every day. This doesn't leave much time balance for other homework activities around maths/topics/writing. Children – like mine – who struggle with the work and homework can quickly grow to hate school and learning, which is a horrible outcome...so I remain of the opinion that we will do what we can, and if they don't get their homework done, I'm not overly fussed about it.</p>	<p>As a school, we recognise that this has been an exceptionally changing period for families. We too value family time and the extracurricular activities undertaken by our children so will consider this when reviewing the policy and the demands it places on families.</p>
<p>Homework often takes up to 3 hours in our house and causes many arguments because our child doesn't want to do it. Because it takes up so much of our weekend, it prevents us from spending quality family time together. We would prefer to have only piece of homework for the weekend- either maths or English or a project that they can focus on properly but not several pieces which they're just trying to rush through because they've got so much to do. Having just one piece of work to do would be much more productive in my opinion.</p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. We will consider the quantity of work set to ensure that it is manageable.</p>
<p>I think homework is helpful to assist some children with consolidating their learning; it provides parents with an insight as to their child's learning and abilities.</p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback.</p>
<p>General comment not just directed at this year group but it would be helpful if homework was able to be issued earlier in the week but at the latest by Wednesday evening to ensure adequate time can be allocated to complete properly. Sometimes it has not been issued until Thursday/Friday AM</p>	<p>In normal times, homework is set in a Wednesday and collected on Monday to allow staff to mark the books before returning to the children. Apologies for any inconvenience caused by late setting of homework. I will feed your comments to the teachers.</p>
<p>I think children would benefit from more maths homework to be given out</p>	<p>Thank you – we try to balance the English and maths. My Maths website can always be used to supplement maths homework.</p>
<p>If using teams please make sure there are consistent and clear headings where parents need to look for homework and spellings as these often differ between teachers and it can be hard for parents to know where to look. Homework set</p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. We are aware of the need for a consistent approach to using Teams as a result</p>

differs massively from teacher to teacher. Some set clear work with great marking and feedback. Others are not clear on what is needed (eg "find out who x is" - my child writes a page, other children verbally give one sentence on who x is and are told that is sufficient. Those who have done the written work were told that they needn't have bothered. Not very motivating. Marking needs to be clear. Please correct errors and spellings! There have been a number of times where I have asked my older child (now left) to check their grammar, they haven't done so and I have said "well I'm sure your teacher will point it out if you won't re-read your work". Then as a parent I am dismayed when the work is returned with no corrections and a sticker for excellent work! In that case the homework has taught them nothing except that mediocrity is acceptable to that teacher even when you definitely have the ability to do it correctly.	of our review of Teams post the January lockdown so will bear this in mind if used going forward.  Please see our marking policy for our approach to marking and feedback
I agree with homework. However, I disagree with the quantity. My son who is at high school gets less	Thank you for this feedback, the quantity of homework appears to be a common theme
Whilst a variety of homework is great - research, maths, comprehension etc, sometimes there can be too much to fit in over a weekend when trying to see family, sporting activities etc. Doing in the week after a day at school plus reading is too much.	Thank you for this feedback, the quantity of homework appears to be a common theme
The homework takes much longer than is listed above.	Thank you for this feedback, the quantity of homework appears to be a common theme
As a rule, I would prefer homework to be less structured to give children the opportunity to explore their interests in their own way and to allow for more family activities/outings. They have excellent structured learning in the classroom, so I would prefer that their time outside the classroom was spent in learning through experience. I don't think the current homework requirements are unduly onerous, but I think sitting down to grammar sheets and suchlike isn't the best use of a child's weekend - nor is marking them best use of a teacher's time!	As part of our review we will consider the nature and type of homework to try to balance views and preferences
Normally I support homework in addition to school learning. It helps parents see what the children may need extra help with and prepares them for high school. This year however after all the home-learning I think that home work should be reduced.	Thank you for your suggestion, your view is noted
Normally I support homework as it helps the parents see what the children are doing at school and what they need help with. This year however after all the home-learning I would prefer it if homework were reduced for a period of time to restore a peaceful balance at home without battles over schoolwork.	Thank you for your suggestion, your view is noted
Homework should take less than 1 hour.	Thank you for your suggestion, your view is noted

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to this survey.

Your views will be considered carefully and will lead changes in homework policy and practise if needed.

Yours sincerely

Lindsey Walsh

(Headteacher)