



Look for opportunities to talk to your child about schoolwork - children enjoy sharing what they are learning. Try to find topics you're both interested in so it's more of a conversation than an interrogation.

Ask your child if there's anything you can do to help with homework. Discuss the organisation of the work. If your child has several assignments due in on the same day, suggest they space the work out rather than leave it all until the night before.

### **Top tips for secondary school homework**

- Keep a designated homework area at home. Somewhere preferably where you have a flat surface, paper and pens readily available. Make sure any distractions are avoided e.g. turn off the television.
- Help keep a routine for your child when it comes to homework. You might find your child wants to complete their homework as soon as they come home from school or they might want to relax and then start working later in the evening. Let your child decide when they want to do their homework but try and keep a regular time.
- Praise and encourage your child to help boost their confidence. Try to pick up on how they have completed certain tasks for example, "I like the way you worked that out..." as opposed to "Well done".
- Ask your child to give you a bit of background on the homework and why they have been set the piece. This should open up discussion and help their enthusiasm.
- However tempting it may be, refrain from completing your child's homework for them. Homework is set to help teachers understand how much your child has understood about the subject and what they can complete independently.
- Stay calm. It might become frustrating if you are trying to teach your child something and they do not seem to be grasping the concept but remember losing your patience will knock their self-esteem and could also prevent them coming to you for help in the future.
- Allow yourself enough time to help your child with their homework. Constantly looking at the clock could discourage them and rushing to complete work against the clock will not result in your child's best piece of work.
- Use the library. The Academy or local library will be able to help your child find the information he/she needs and develop their research skills.
- The Academy library offers free internet access for homework, and can advise on links to useful homework websites. This is a great way of getting the homework out of the way and getting help and advice on the best way to tackle it.
- Encourage your child by offering a small reward that they can choose at the end of the week if all their set homework is done. It doesn't have to be money or sweets - maybe a favorite movie, or offering to play a game or do something with them that they always enjoy. Aim if possible for them to have at least one homework-free day a week.
- The amount of homework gradually increases as your child goes through primary school - but still the amount of homework set in high school (Year 7 onwards) can come as a shock. Help your child adapt by helping them plan their homework for the first few weeks using the school planner.
- Don't get stressed out by homework - if you are, your child will be too. Remember to talk to the school if you feel your child has too much homework, or it's not clear, or is taking them too long. Asking for feedback on how they feel your child is doing is also helpful.

### **Other ways to support your child's learning**

You may not be reading with your child as you did at primary school but you can still support good reading habits. Talk to your child about the books you're both reading. Ask what books your child would like for birthday and Christmas presents. Go to the library together or look online at book reviews. Here at Outwood Academy Adwick, our students are involved in Accelerated Reader, and now with the home link, parents are able to check what their child has been reading and see how they are progressing in their reading skills.

Try to encourage your child to read a newspaper at least once or twice a week, finding news stories that connect to lesson topics.

If you're planning a day out, visit a museum or gallery that will tie in with work your child is doing in subjects such as Art, English, History, Geography or Science - this can be a fun way to add depth and interest to your child's learning.

Outwood Academy Adwick offers parents the opportunity to develop their learning skills in literacy and numeracy, which can be at a basic level or at certification level. For details of our courses please contact Ann Lambert on 01302 722237 ext: 245.