



Arnage Primary School Homework Policy

Following a review of our homework procedures in 2018-19 and meetings with teachers, pupils and parents this is our new policy. Thanks to all the parents, pupils and staff who took part in our surveys and consultations. Below our policy you can see a graphical summary of the results of the survey.

Frequency and Duration of Homework

It is hoped that all pupils will be able to complete around one hour of homework over the course of the week. Teachers will usually set all homework on one day and expect it to be returned five or six days later. For example, homework may be issued on a Wednesday and due on the Monday of the following week. The only exception to this would be reading homework, which is given out more frequently during the week, usually with a couple of nights to complete the reading of a range of pages.

Content of Homework

There will generally be an element of literacy and numeracy in the weekly homework. The literacy element will consist of weekly spelling, reading (see above) and may also include additional reading tasks. The numeracy element will either be mental maths speed and consolidation activities (such as tables challenges, partner quizzes, etc) or activities more directly related to work being done in class. Sometimes there may be additional tasks connected to other curricular areas.

Level of Difficulty

Teachers will always do their best to ensure that homework is set at an appropriate level of challenge for each child. Whilst input and engagement from family members is encouraged, your engagement should be there to support them, check work, explain things, etc – but not to do it for them! If you find that your child is struggling with the level of the work or is spending well in excess of an hour a week on their homework, please discuss this with the teacher.

Special/Project Style Homework

Now and again teachers may set a more long-term project style challenge for homework. This will usually have its own set of instructions and success criteria and children will be given a number of weeks to plan and complete the task. It will usually involve the children creating and presenting something to the class. Often this type of homework will be connected to the topic work they are doing that term.

Personalisation and Choice

Teachers will try to give an element of choice in the homework, usually by offering a range of different activities from which the children can choose. For project style homework children may be given a choice as to how they present their work, e.g. a poster, a powerpoint presentation, etc.

Common Questions from Parents

I Don't Know What They are Supposed to be Doing!

We will do our best to make it clear to parents what your child's homework task is. They will have a homework jotter, where there is a range of tasks which the children can choose from, these will be printed out and inserted into the jotter. We are also hoping to use the SeeSaw journal app in the future, and we may be able to publish homework instructions on here for parents to see. As we develop our digital technology skills (children and staff) it is hoped that we will be able to set and receive homework online.

Do I need a Computer?

Some homework may have the option to be done online or involve online elements but the teacher will ensure that it is always possible to complete the task just as well offline, so that nobody feels disadvantaged.

What if Homework Isn't Done?

We recognise that family life is hectic and, at times, unpredictable. Therefore we understand that there may be times when homework gets missed. Children won't be shamed or sanctioned in school for not completing homework, though the teacher will encourage them to complete it and will talk to children individually if they are not completing homework regularly. Teachers will also use the home school diaries to let parents know if homework is not being completed.

How Can I Support My Child with Homework?

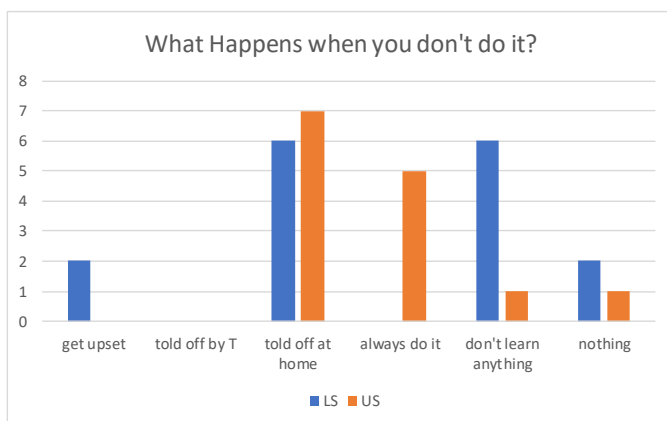
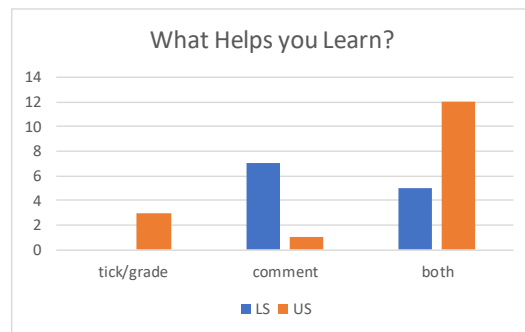
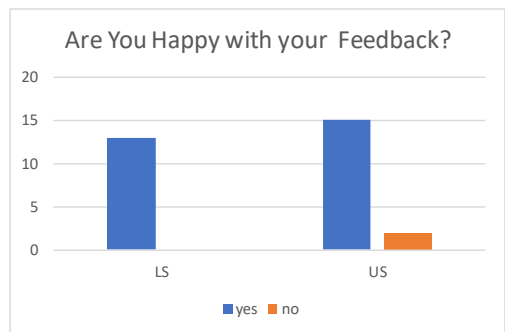
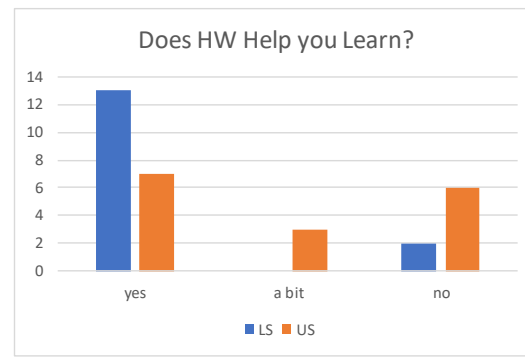
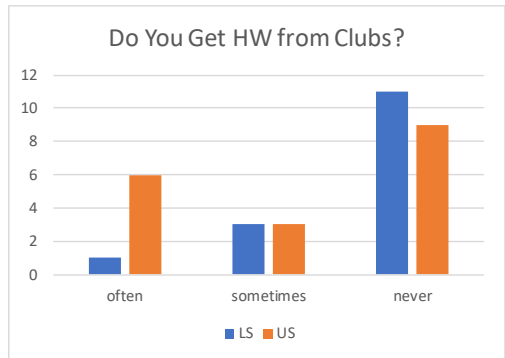
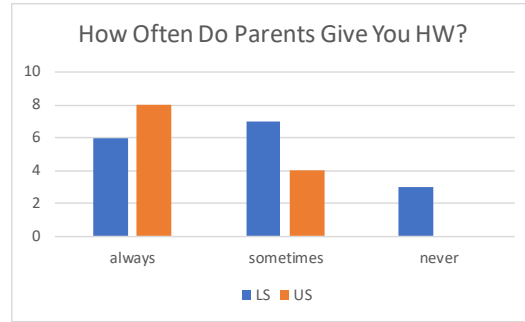
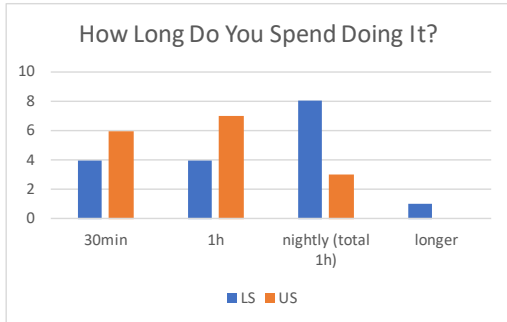
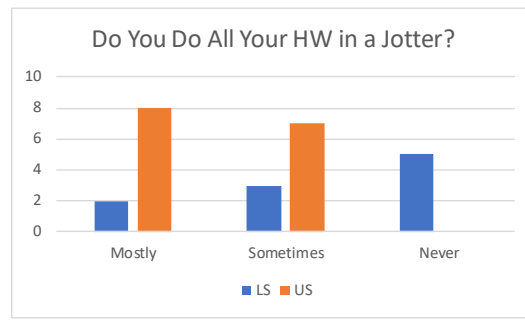
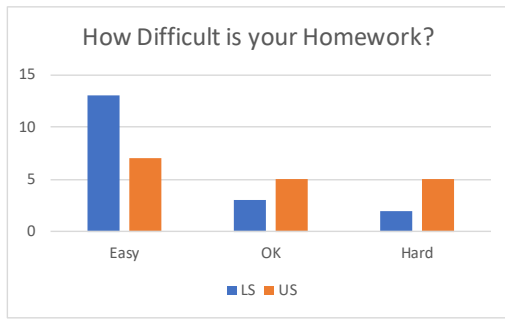
Here are some top tips:

- Ask them questions to check their understanding and to expand their thinking. (If you are interested in finding out more about questions that encourage different types of thinking skills, please contact the school)
- Talk about or repeat the things they've been working on verbally throughout the week
- Give plenty of praise and encouragement
- Know when to stop! If you are both tired, frustrated, angry or not understanding – leave it. Put in a note for the teacher to let them know
- Go back and consolidate learning from previous weeks – practice makes perfect
- Generally, take an interest in what they are working on (SeeSaw may give you a better idea if you have reluctant communicators!) and see if you can draw out connections with their life outside of school

Mike Craig, Head Teacher

Arnage School, October 2019

Arnage Primary - Homework Survey 2018-19
Pupil Results

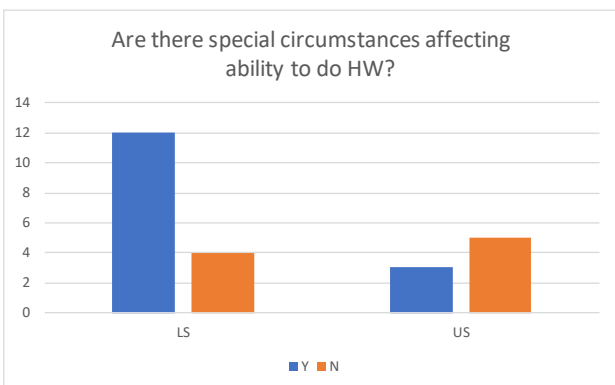
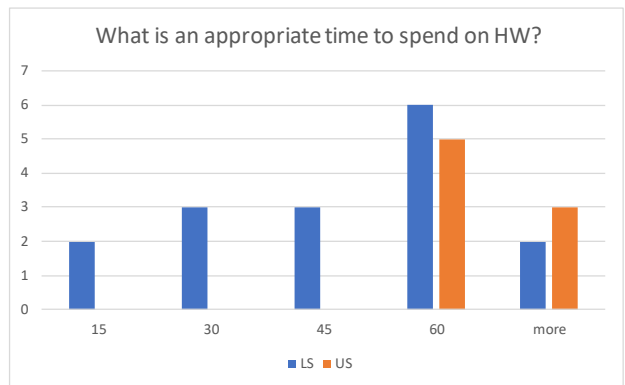
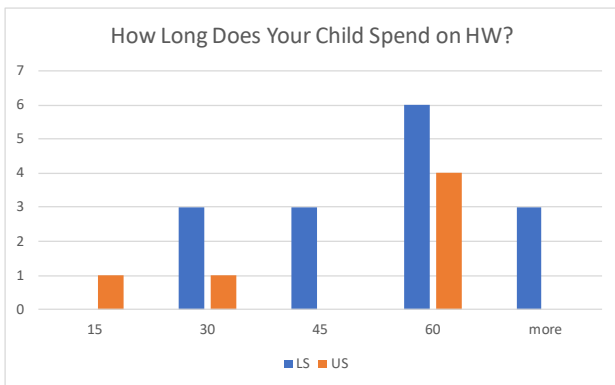


Comments on What teachers could do to help:

LS Help in class, give clear instructions, help me do it, give awards, give comments

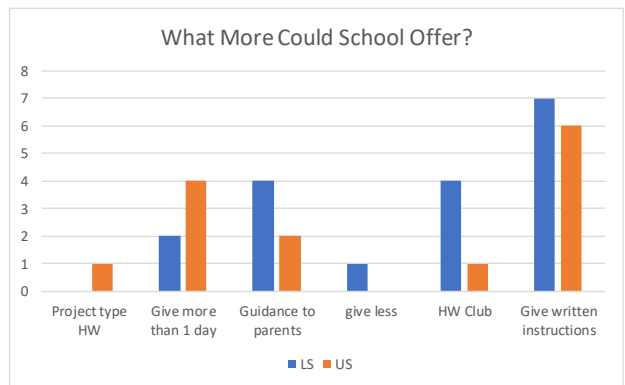
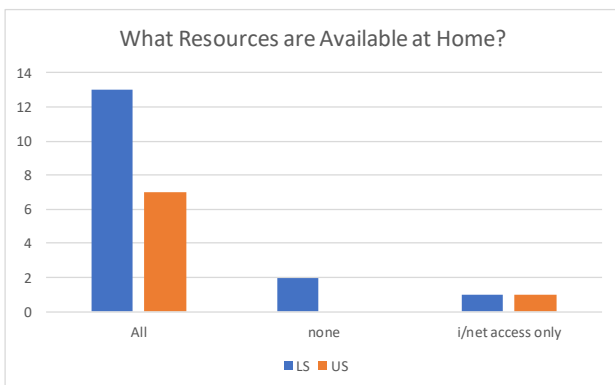
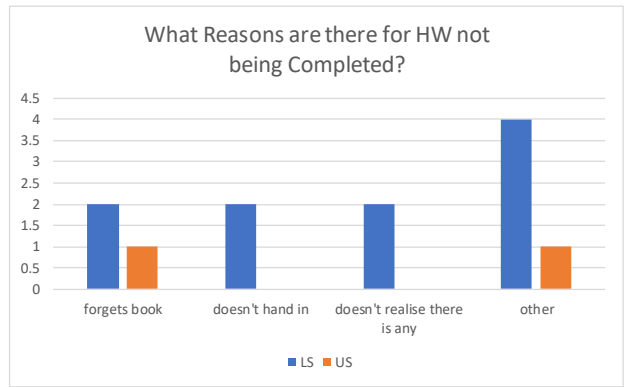
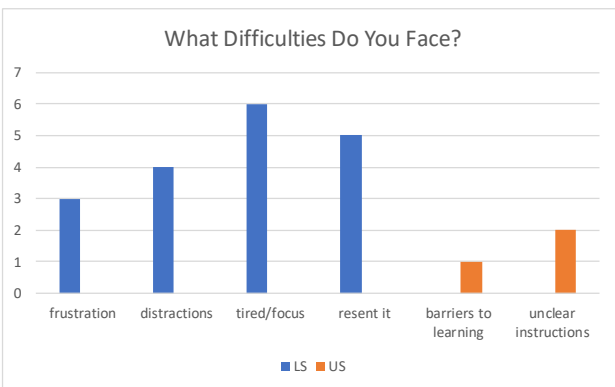
US Give less writing, clear instructions, give less, timetable it more, give harder stuff

Arnage Primary - Homework Survey 2018-19
Parent Results



Main issues: motivating children to do it, children needing more downtime after school, OOS activities limiting time available

All but one parents get involved in children's homework in many ways, such as: checking, correcting, explaining



Other Comments

Homework can be a struggle but it's important to have it. Using home/school diary to communicate hw is good.
Time to do hw is an issue. I like doing it with my child. HW should be optional and be targeted at weaker areas.
Would be good to have a compulsory and optional element.
It's good for teaching time management skills. HW should be hard but achievable