



Homework Policy 2015

1 Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.

We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4. Amount and type of homework

Nursery

- Storytime book to share with parents each week and
- Family activity which may be numeracy or literacy activity

Reception

- Reading book each night for 10 minutes
- Family activity which may be numeracy or literacy activity

Year 1

- Reading book each night for 10 minutes
- Weekly Spellings
- One piece of creative topic homework per term

Year 2, 3 and 4

- Reading book each night for 10 minutes
- Weekly Spellings
- One piece of creative topic homework per term
- Timestable practice each night
- One piece of literacy, numeracy or science homework per week

Year 5 and 6

- Reading book each night for 10 minutes
- Weekly Spellings
- Two pieces of creative topic homework per term
- Timestable practice each night
- Two pieces of literacy, numeracy or science homework per week

5 Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

6 The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to

sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them each night.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the Headteacher in the first instance and, should concerns still remain, the governing body.

8 Use of ICT

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our homework policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher in consultation with teaching staff.

September 2015

To be reviewed September 2016