



Homework Policy

Approved by *Governors* June 2016

To be reviewed by June 2018

What is homework?

Homework is defined as, "any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers."

Aims

The aims of this policy are to ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school where;

- Teachers, parents/carers and pupils have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- Teachers, parents and pupils are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.
- Pupils develop a confident, self-disciplined and independent approach to learning
- Pupils to develop a view of lifelong learning and to develop long term strategies for future needs
- Pupils are prepared for secondary transfer
- The learning experience is extend and supported via reinforcement and revision
- There is a system of advice and guidance which is manageable for the parent, child and school

Homework Guidelines for Primary Schools

Reception	No recommendation
Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6	2.5 hours per week

The purpose of homework

- Develops an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers
- Consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Helps children to develop an approach to learning that draws on everyday experiences and resources
- Extends school learning, for example through additional reading
- Encourages pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.
- Allows parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.

Role of the school

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for pupils with the running of a homework club.
- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the pupil.

The role of parents/carers

- To provide a quiet place and routine where their child can do their homework and that they complete homework at a suitable time;
- To provide help and encouragement so that children can complete/attempt as much as possible. Children might need to be helped by an adult, for instance, when reading, or learning spellings and tables;
- To make it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school by explaining how it can help their child's learning;

- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed homework.

But remember it is the child's homework not yours!

Role of the child

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in Reception and Key Stage 1

Learning together is the emphasis for pupils in Reception. The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Parents will be informed of the theme that pupils are learning in school each half term.

Starting in the Autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways:-

Adults reading to children

Parents are encouraged to share the book that their child brings home so they can get used to print and stories. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

Children reading to an adult

When they are ready to, children will start bringing books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language. Reading on a regular basis is vital. Children will bring their

reading books home every evening, and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words i.e, using their phonics knowledge to sound words out, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words, are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read.

We ask parents to complete the reading log on a weekly basis which has a focus they can discuss with their child and comment on.

Letter formation

We use the Christopher Jarman Handwriting scheme. The class teacher will provide parents with a sheet to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start and finish when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively, so they don't fall into bad habits.

Phonics and Tricky Words

Children learn to read tricky words. After the children have learned the tricky words in each phase parents will be sent a list of the words the children have learned. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them, will really benefit the child.

Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Reception and Key Stage 1, which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight (KS1 100 word). Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these, by practising them regularly and often.

Every Monday there will be a new list for children to learn. Children need to

- **Look at the word**
- **Say it out loud**
- **Cover and write the word**
- **Check that they have completed it correctly.**

Mathematics

Children will be given homework to develop important numeracy skills. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills.

Homework in Key Stage 2

What type of work might my child get?

Reading

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves, in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the text that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Parents should continue to complete the section for parents on their child's reading log to show that they have read to an adult or had a discussion about the book. There is a focus each week for the adult and child to base their discussions around.

Spelling

There is a clear spelling programme that teachers follow in school. This can be seen on the school website. It is vital that children continue to build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight (the 100 word for their phase). Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these, by practising them regularly and often.

Every Monday there will be a new list for children to learn. Children need to

- **Look at the word**
- **Say it out loud**
- **Cover and write the word**
- **Check that they have completed it correctly.**

Literacy

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling, grammar or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

Mathematics

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

Other Curriculum Areas

Work could be linked to any other curriculum area, Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview.

The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas.

Online resources

Children can practice reading and mathematics using these online resources that the school subscribes to - the login will be on the inside cover of the home school diary.



The Home/School Diary

This diary maintains a regular dialogue between home and school, where both parents and teachers can record comments. Parents may comment upon

- how well the children did the activities
- observations such as did the child find the task manageable, challenging and/or interesting.

Target Work

Throughout their school career groups of children may be identified to work in smaller groups:-

- additional literacy support groups
- booster groups
- target groups.

In these situations more specific homework tasks will be planned.

Special Educational Needs

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special educational needs is important. We feel that these children should do similar to other children wherever possible.

Tasks should:

- have a clear focus
- plenty of opportunities for children to succeed.

What will happen if a child does not complete their homework?

The expectation is that children will complete their homework by Friday each week. However if for any reason children are unable to complete their homework, parents/ carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day the homework was due to be returned to school. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If homework is not completed the child will lose some of their "Golden Time" on a Friday afternoon.

Feedback

Where homework is done together with adults, children will receive immediate feedback on what they are doing. At home this can be done by parents and carers.

At school this can be done through

- class/group discussion
- through tests, e.g. tables and spelling
- through individual comments by the teacher
- children to review their work in small groups.
- Marking by class teacher or teaching assistant.

This depends upon the type of homework given.

After School Clubs

The Pupil Premium Grant is used to support to pupils who find it difficult to access the internet at home or find it difficult to complete their homework.

2 cover supervisors run a "Bug Club" after school club for pupils in KS1 and KS2 on a Monday and then run a "Homework" afterschool club on Thursday. Pupils are invited to this club.

Monitoring

Each term a sample of home/school diaries from each class will be collected in to check for

- compliance with the policy
- quality of the homework set
- strength of support from parents.

Motivation

In class systems are in place to celebrate the work of children through

- collecting in diaries on a regular basis
- merit charts
- star reader schemes
- celebration assemblies