

Queen's Crescent School

Homework policy

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Aims and Objectives

Regular, well planned homework can:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- Develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.
- Encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance
- Help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school.
- Provide opportunities for individualised work and develop skills of independent learning
- Offer access to resources not found in school (public libraries, local museums etc.)
- Consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work.
- Provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.

Homework is seen as 'an essential part of good education that supports children's development as independent learners'. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

What is Homework?

Homework should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- reading with a parent
- consolidating work from previous class learning
- undertaking individual research for a project
- numeracy activities including learning number facts (tables)
- literacy activities both written and verbal
- learning spellings
- Topic related project learning

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school, speaking initially to the class teacher. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

Homework Tasks

Listed below, for each year group at Queen's Crescent School, are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

Foundation Stage

These may include:

- Sharing books with parents
- Practicing phonic sounds and key word recognition.
- Talking Homework to encourage the children to respond to a set question.
- Maths challenges to develop everyday problem solving activities
- Playing a game e.g. lotto, snakes and ladders

Year 1 and Year 2

These may include:

- Reading books and key words
- Learning spellings
- Mental maths targets set from numeracy passports, including table facts and number bonds.
- Real life numeracy related problems
- Talk home learning to support topic learning.

Year 3 and Year 4

These may include:

- Reading
- Weekly spellings
- Challenges related to current topic learning.
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities including times tables learning.

Year 5 and Year 6

They may include:

- Reading
- Weekly spellings
- Grammar activities
- Reading comprehension activities
- Planning pieces of writing
- Planning presentations
- Researching topics
- Learning Times Tables and number facts.
- Practising calculation strategies learned in class

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- Offer some children the opportunity of attending an after school homework club (Biscuit Club)
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework appropriately, when necessary, and give feedback to pupils.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

At Queen’s Crescent School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Queen’s Crescent School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

Absence

- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child’s class teacher.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy.

This Policy was approved by the Full Governing Body at its meeting held on 24th September 2018.

Signed:.....
Mrs J Hawkins, Headteacher

Signed:.....
Mrs R Dimech, Chair of Governors

Dated

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