

Harlescott Junior School



Homework Policy

January 2016

To be reviewed January 2018

HOMEWORK POLICY

It is our belief that learning at home is a vital part of the good education to which all children are entitled. Although importantly it is not just about reinforcing learning in the classroom it also helps children develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful independent lifelong learning.

Homework is, we believe, a partnership and our policy sets out the framework upon which we will all work closely together. We will continue to work hard at maintaining parental support and their commitment to homework that is essential if it is to be effective.

The purpose of homework

It is our view that homework should:

- Develop an effective partnership between school and parents thus fostering the aims of our school
- Reinforce and consolidate the skills and understanding acquired at school particularly in the areas of literacy and maths
- Provide opportunities to extend the learning gained in school e.g. through additional reading/research etc.
- Develop the confidence and self discipline needed for individual study and prepare the child for the needs of a secondary school
- Provide an opportunity for families to work together to enjoy learning experiences and in so doing enable parents, children and school to work in partnership.

In order for homework to be successful it must be balanced and manageable. It is our responsibility as a school to see that the day to day demands of homework are planned and co-ordinated with regular patterns and expectations particularly in the areas of literacy and maths. Homework that is set must be discussed within the context of each year group planning meeting and be appropriately differentiated.

Parental Involvement

The role of the parents in supporting the child's homework is critical and can be summarised as follows:

- Monitor children's homework planners and homework books to ensure you're up to date with home work activities
- Find a regular time that homework can be completed that suits your family life
- Provide a suitable place in which the child can do their homework without unnecessary distractions
- Make it clear to the child that they, the parents, value the homework and that they support the school, explaining how it can help with learning
- Offer encouragement and praise when the child has completed their homework



Achieving successful partnership takes time and this can be accelerated and cemented through:

- Coffee Mornings and Workshops (e.g. practical literacy and numeracy activities)
- HJS Planners - used to encourage two way (parent/teacher) and later three way (parent/teacher/child) communication
- Shared Materials (e.g. games information and instructions on skills and topics)

Gaining feedback from the parent is very important and should be done as quickly as possible. A regular dialogue with parents can be established via the Homework Planner in which opportunities for teachers and parents to record comments are on offer. It is good policy to keep a record of homework that has not been completed and where necessary draw this to the attention of the parents.

The weekly framework

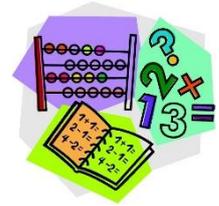
The main activities that will be set for all year groups are detailed below. Each year group will let parents know via the curriculum newsletter on which days they are to expect homework and on which day testing will occur. As children move up the key stage from Y3 to Y6 the expectation for homework to be completed and amount of homework set will increase.

There are activities that are every day and are to be completed as often as possible; reading, spelling practise and times tables practise. There will be other activities set weekly; Literacy and Maths in the children's homework books. Then there will be a termly project linked to our Creative Curriculum.

In all year groups there will be a minimum amount of homework set which is to be completed and then more available for those children or parents who wish this; this will be through Educational Websites. These Educational Websites will be detailed on the HJS website or in the front of homework books. Children who wish to complete extra homework but are without internet connections at home can attend a free after school homework club at HJS or use the computer facilities at the local library-The Lantern.

Maths Homework

Children should practise their number bonds and times tables.
A maths worksheet will be given for children to complete.



Literacy Homework

Reading their individual reading book. In most cases reading to an adult is the most valuable way to go about this, however high level readers may wish to read to themselves.

Teachers will assign each member of the class with a reading book which matches their comprehension age or sight vocabulary age. This book will be changed regularly and children will be encouraged to write comments about their reading in their student planners.

Spellings are given out to practise and learn each week. Children will then be tested on these words in school.

Results from these weekly tests should be recorded in planners so parents can see how well their child has performed in their test.

Literacy worksheets or activities will be set which link to current classwork.

Topic Homework

Each term children will be set a task related to the topic for that term. This will involve the children developing their own understanding of the topic by doing research, creating a fact sheet, making a model or producing a piece of artwork.

Homework considerations

Some of our children have special educational needs and are included on the special needs register. It is important that appropriate homework is set for this group of children which is differentiated to meet their needs. Tasks therefore should have a clear focus, with plenty of opportunities for success. Support from a parent/carer is vital if confidence levels are to grow. This further reinforces the need for partnership.

The setting of homework for certain children at certain times can pose problems and be seen as insensitive and intrusive. We must be mindful of this as we set our own levels of expectation. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds sometime lack the opportunity, space or time to satisfactorily complete homework each and every evening. To demand such a response is unrealistic and potentially damaging to good home school relationships and to the child's self esteem.

Homework need not and should not get in the way of other activities which the children may do after school, such as sport, music and clubs of all kinds. Homework should complement the all round development of the child and be set in line with the defined weekly framework.

Positive encouragement, reinforced using our reward system will hopefully provide the incentive for everyone to undertake their homework within the agreed timescale and to benefit from the positive feedback that ensues.

The efficiency and effectiveness of our homework policy needs to be monitored and evaluated regularly; planners and homework books will be monitored and their effectiveness reviewed by SLT, also the number of children completing homework tasks will be monitored.