

Homework Policy – September 2016

1 Introduction

- 1.1 By the term 'homework', this policy refers to anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to requests or 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 supporting their learning in a very valuable way.
- 1.2 Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government makes clear its commitment to homework, it regards it as an essential part of good education. We believe that homework can help to make links in pupils' learning and to enable them to become lifelong learners, not simply regarding learning as something which goes on at school.
- 1.3 We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of partnership and 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 ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 1.4 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 family and leisure activities, and participating in various clubs and organisations which play an important part in children's lives. 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.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 The aims and objectives of our homework policy are:
- to ensure a consistent approach to the use of homework across the school;
 - to inform parents and carers about our approach to homework and to promote partnership and co-operation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
 - to help to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
 - to help pupils develop the skills of independent learners;
 - to help children to understand that the world of learning extends beyond the school, and to make links between their experiences in school and those gained outside school;
 - to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
 - to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
 - to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
 - to help children develop good work habits for the future.

3. Types of homework

Please see the table on the following page.

3.1 **Homework will be set in the following way:**

Year groups	Type and frequency of homework
FS1	<p>Home supported learning.</p> <p>School holiday focused activities to complete at home and share with school.</p>
FS2	<p>At least 10 minute daily reading with your child at home – please record comments in their reading diary.</p> <p>Weekly Sound sheet activity – phonics related.</p> <p>Weekly tricky words will be added to sound sheets so children can practise their weekly words at home if they wish.</p> <p>School holiday focused activities to complete at home and share with school.</p>
KS1	<p>At least 10 minute daily reading with your child at home – please record comments in their reading diary.</p> <p>Each week either: an activity linked to English or Maths</p> <p>Weekly spelling/phonics homework</p> <p>A half termly 'Learning Challenge' this will be set at the start of a half term and will have a completion date – this will be towards the end of the half term.</p> <p>Learning challenge homework will be linked to topics areas covered that half term.</p>
KS2	<p>Daily reading with your child at home – please record comments in their reading diary.</p> <p>Each week an English and Maths activity</p> <p>Weekly spellings based on a spelling pattern- there will be a weekly spelling test on words that contain that pattern.</p> <p>A half termly 'Learning Challenge' this will be set at the start of a half term and will have a completion date – this will be towards the end of the half term.</p> <p>Learning challenge homework will be linked to topics areas covered that half term.</p>

Sometimes children will also be asked to collect items/materials at home to bring in for a particular topic/lesson. There may also be times when you will need to support your to organise an outfit to enable them to take part in a themed topic day.

- 3.2 Completion of homework is acknowledged by the class teacher. This could be in various forms, for example, a tick, a sticker, merit award or verbal feedback, including feedback from peers. In FS the children will receive verbal feedback from staff.
- 3.3 We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks, for example, research, can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach or method, for example, mathematical calculations.
- 4 Inclusion and homework**
- 4.1 We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate for children, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.
- 5 The role of parents and carers**
- 5.1 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 check what homework has been set and to encourage their child to complete the tasks. 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.
- 5.2 If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.
- 6 Use of the internet**
- 6.1 The use of 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 merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.
- 6.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents or carers are advised to always supervise their child's access to the internet.
- 6.3 We discourage children from bringing their memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. Children may use their personal, protected email address to attach files that they would like to share in school.
- 7 Monitoring and review**
- 7.1 The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy, by monitoring samples of the children's homework and teachers' planning.
- 7.2 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. Parents and carers complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, which asks questions about parents' views on homework. The governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way in which homework is organised in our school.
- 7.3 This policy will be reviewed every three years or more often if necessary.

Signed:

Date: