

Cottesbrooke Infant School
Homework Policy

Cottesbrooke Infant School

Reviewed September 2013

Policy for Homework



Cottesbrooke Infant School Homework Policy

At Cottesbrooke Infant School we strongly believe in the value of a home-school partnership, of which our homework policy is an important element. Children achieve more when schools and parents work together. Parents can help more effectively if they know what the school is trying to achieve and how they can help.

What is Homework?

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents and carers.

The Aims of our Homework Policy

Through this policy we aim to:

- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership
- Encourage a positive attitude to work
- Consolidate and extend learning experiences
- Ensure parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their child
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- Ensure the needs of the individual child are taken into account
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in Literacy and Numeracy
- Extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision
- Provide opportunities for the parent and their child to work together to enjoy learning experiences

A Partnership with Parents

To be effective our homework policy needs to be part of the wider partnership with parents and school. We need to be able to count on parents supporting our aims and therefore parents are consulted and informed about the policy. All parents have access to a copy of the policy.

Type and Amount of Homework

The main focus of homework is supporting Literacy and Numeracy. Staff have identified the development of specific skills which they feel would have the greatest impact on children's learning. Other subjects may be added from time to time without losing the focus of Literacy and

Cottesbrooke Infant School
Homework Policy

Numeracy. It is the involvement of parents and carers which is most valuable in promoting the children's learning.

Government guidelines on homework give a broad indication of how much time should be spent on homework which is a minimum of 1 hour per week for infant children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2).

Nursery

Nursery children are provided with a pack of activities prior to starting. This contains a variety of number games and cards, pencils, crayons, a name card, an all about me booklet, a book of nursery rhymes and ideas for activities that could be done with the resources.

Each term, on one Friday during the term children will bring home either 'Leo the Lion', 'Walt the Cat' or 'Lola the Leopard'. This will be accompanied by guidance on how to put together a script about the animal characters time with the child during the weekend e.g. On Saturday we went to the shops with Leo and we bought some oranges and apples. Children will return the animal characters to Nursery the following Monday and will be asked to talk through the events in the script.

In addition to the above, parents will be given regular guidance on reading activities, number games/activities and number songs which can be done on a daily basis.

Reception

On Fridays children will take home a reading book suitable to share with an adult - one that can be read to the child or read together. This may be an ORT book.

In addition to the above, when phonics lessons start, each day children will take home a phonic activity sheet to complete. These sheets will be kept at home for reference.

As the children reading ability develops, they will have a RWI book suitable to their reading ability sent home on Friday.

Year 1 and Year 2

Each week children will take home:

Cottesbrooke Infant School Homework Policy

- A Read Write Inc. book **and** an Oxford Reading Tree or graded reader book suitable for their reading ability. Literacy set leaders are responsible for sending RWI books to classes and keeping a record. Aim to read at least 3 times per week (for 10 minutes)
- A library book of their choice (once parents' permission slips have been returned)
- As children reach a new stage of RWI copies of relevant vocabulary and new graphemes (written sounds) will be provided to be kept at home as reference to read and spell.

Cross Curricular Homework

During autumn 1 and summer 2, children are provided with a list of projects linked to the topics being covered which can be worked through at the child's own pace. During the final weeks of term the class teacher will ask the children to show and talk about one of the projects that they have completed.

IMPACT in Learning Homework

Impact homework is usually a half termly programme. There are different workshops throughout the year focussing on literacy and numeracy, see below. It begins with a workshop for parents and children together in week one. Prior to the workshop, the class teacher should carry out a prior, unaided assessment on the Impact focus e.g. a piece of recount writing as a baseline for the programme.

In the hour long workshop, parents are given a pack of resources and shown how to use the resources that children are using in their lessons at school. The format is usually as follows; a member of staff introduces the homework topic to the parents for the first ten minutes and then the children join the parents and they work together for the remainder of the hour. The member of staff will circulate and demonstrate support strategies as necessary.

At the end of the session the parents take the pack home and the school sets weekly homework with a new title/ using the same resources and the parents support the children at home using their new knowledge.

Cottesbrooke Infant School
Homework Policy

At the end of the programme, a second assessment should be carried out and compared with the first. A comparison of these results can be made to see if the children have acquired skills and knowledge as a result of parental input.

Key Stage 1 Homework Matrix

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	Cross curricular homework sheet	Impact Story Writing	Impact Maths Calculations	Impact Maths problem solving	Impact Recount	Cross curricular homework sheet
Year 2	Cross curricular homework sheet	Impact Story Writing	Impact Maths Calculations/ Maths SATs	Impact Maths problem solving Reading SATs/ comprehension	Impact Recount	Cross curricular homework sheet

Additional Activities

In addition to the regular activities given in Literacy and Numeracy the children may be asked to:

- Research information
- Complete comprehension activities
- Read in preparation for lessons
- Prepare oral presentations
- Work on written assignments
- Do problem solving tasks
- Work on more open-ended assignments, i.e. produce a mini topic on a given subject or make a model

Homework and Children with Special Educational Needs

The general aims of our homework policy apply equally to pupils with Special Educational Needs. Homework for these pupils is not seen as the way of attempting to get these pupils to catch up with the rest of the class and will therefore reflect the needs and abilities of such children as identified by the staff.

Cottesbrooke Infant School
Homework Policy

The Management of Homework

Homework is co-ordinated by the teachers so that the demands on children, parents and teachers are balanced and manageable.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that homework is done. If it appears that a child regularly does not complete their homework staff will approach parents with their concerns.

However, we also aim to keep homework in perspective - children do need time to relax and play.

The Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Pupils

Parents are encouraged to work in partnership with the school in order to be closely involved in their child's learning and raise standards of achievement. They are encouraged to:

- Attend parents meetings
- Make it clear that they value homework, and support the school by explaining how the homework activities can help their child's learning
- Provide a peaceful place for the child to work away from distractions such as the TV
- Encourage their child and praise them when they have completed the activities
- Become actively involved in joint homework activities
- Help their child to organise their time so that things are not left to the last minute or even forgotten
- Encourage and give guidance to the child but not to do the work for them
- Let the teacher know if the child is struggling with the activities
- Praise the child for their efforts
- Children are provided with a reading diary for parents to keep a record of books children have read. This is for parents to use but may be checked periodically by staff.

Feedback for Pupils, Parents and Teachers

Both parents and teachers are responsible for helping the child recognise their achievements and this would often be verbal praise. Literacy Impact homework will be marked in line with the school marking policy.

Cottesbrooke Infant School
Homework Policy

Monitoring and Evaluating the Homework Policy

The school's Senior Management Team monitors the effectiveness of the homework policy. Discussions take place with teachers to see how successfully the school's policy is being implemented and the extent to which the policy is contributing to the progress the pupils make at school and their attitude to learning.

Equal Opportunity

At Cottesbrooke Infant School we are aware that all children deserve and have an entitlement to equal access to the national and school curriculum; that we have a responsibility to provide that access and that we must be attentive to the children's needs whatever their social and cultural background, their learning capability, their gender or their ethnic origin.

In Summary

We feel that homework is a valuable way of helping our children to get the most from their education but it is vital that we have parental support if this is to be of benefit. This policy clarifies the situation regarding homework in our school and enables us to work together to help our children now and in the future.

Reviewed September 2013