

HOMEWORK POLICY and GUIDELINES REDLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Context

This policy has been drawn up following the consultation exercise undertaken in January 2016. Respondents (Parents, Staff and Children) at the time felt that homework should be given to all children at primary school, that the quantity of homework currently being given is about right, that parents should be expected to help their children with their homework and that homework should be responded to by the teacher in some way.

Homework for Spelling, English and Mathematics were considered the most important, although homework based on topics was also felt to be of value.

Aims of homework

- To develop independence and individual responsibility for learning
- To extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision
- To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership so that parents are actively involved in their child's learning
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences and experience the value of learning
- To encourage pupils to develop routines and organisational skills for future needs
- At Year 6 to prepare for transfer to secondary school
- To raise attainment

We will

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and the pupils in order to help all children achieve at the highest possible levels
- endeavour to inform parents about any topics being covered in class
- ensure that all homework is responded to appropriately

Homework should be

- related to classroom work
- well explained with a clear purpose
- well planned
- in a range of forms: independent research, investigations using the home environment, learning tables, problem solving, discussions, observations and practical tasks
- challenging but within the pupils' capabilities
- likely to promote confidence through success
- rewarded through recognition and a response from the teacher – this could be a comment, stamp, sticker, smiley etc
- supported by parents
- reasonable, enjoyable and should not impact negatively on home life

Reading

Reading should be an enjoyable experience for both the child and the parents. We expect children to read every day at home, and for those instances to be communicated in the child's reading record

whatever the genre. Reading to the child is a valuable and connecting experience, regardless of the age of the child and those who may be fluent readers. Age-appropriate story cds, magazines, comics, newspapers and other graphic texts all form part of a child's reading experience.

Other types of homework:

- For younger children **games** such as "I Spy", memory games, board games (Snakes and Ladders is great for early maths work) are valuable and fun.
- **Spelling and maths** homework may form part of a child's homework, depending on the level the child is working at.
- **Topic work** may be set on a broad theme based on school work. This could be presented in many ways – a picture or poster, a PowerPoint presentation, a model, a puppet, a cooked dish to name but a few. Topic work is presented in class and we are always happy to provide materials by request. Regular displays of topic homework will be organised by the class teacher.
- **Time spent with children**, for example outside at the park, on a walk or a picnic, inside playing games or cooking together, is just as valuable as homework tasks.

Parental involvement

- Parents should encourage and support children with homework but it must always be the child's own work
- Parents should provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which the children can do their work at home
- Parents should make it clear to pupils that they value their learning at home
- Parents should praise pupils for attempting and completing work at home
- Parents are encouraged to feed back to teachers should any issues arise regarding homework
- Parents will have access to the Homework Policy via the school's website and the Autumn at Redlands publication

For those parents who would like to supplement this with more "traditional" homework a range of workbooks and revision guides are available from most bookshops.

Monitoring of homework

Monitoring of homework will be done by the class teacher who will keep a record of all those who have or have not completed and returned homework. Reading records will also be monitored and used to inform parents of their child's next steps of learning. Homework may form part of the discussion at parents' evenings.

Children who choose not to complete homework will be encouraged to do so by the class teacher, and may be asked to complete it during the school day.

Homework Club

For children in KS2 (Y3 – Y6) a weekly homework club is available. Children in Y3 and Y4 must have an adult from home with them, children in Y5 and Y6 may attend on their own. One of the KS2 teachers will supervise the club and provide guidance and support for children.

Learn Anywhere

Homework tasks will be uploaded to the class's Learnanywhere page wherever possible. Parents and children can check tasks and deadlines at any time.

Review date: Autumn 2020