

Homework Policy



Introduction

Homework: *“Any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers”.*

In March 2012, the Government scrapped official guidance on setting homework. This policy has been reviewed following discussion with staff and feedback from parents.

Rationale

- Homework is planned as an integral part of the curriculum to support work done in school and to practise basic skills.
- Tasks are set that can be completed within the allocated homework time and that are matched as far as possible to the abilities of the children.
- Tasks will be given marking and feedback.
- The ‘homework schedule’ will be communicated to parents at the beginning of the year in the “Meet the Teacher” meeting.

Purposes of homework

1. To improve, consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding in the core subjects of literacy and numeracy, as well as other areas of curriculum when appropriate.
2. To both reinforce and extend understanding, as fits the needs of the child.
3. To support the development of independent study skills.
4. To develop an effective partnership between home and school, providing parents with the opportunity to be involved in their children’s education.

Homework guidelines

A Special Word About Reading

Reading should be considered as a daily activity for all children. For younger pupils this will be ‘sharing’ a book with your child, that is, talking about a book, reading to them and hearing them read for a short time. Older children should be given the time and the space to read independently for enjoyment and they may still wish for you to read to them! We cannot urge strongly enough to do this. The little and often approach to practice, consolidation and enjoyment in this way can work wonders.

Nursery: Finding relevant items from home
Phonics – initial sounds activity

Reception: Home reading with your child, ideally daily
Phonics books – weekly
Tricky/high frequency word pots - weekly

KS1:

*Maths homework will not be set weekly but pupils are encouraged to practice maths facts and extend their learning through activities available on the MLE: **Mathletics and Interactive Maths Resources**. If you wish to practice written calculations, please ask for a copy of the school's Calculation Policy to support your work at home.*

Year 1: Finding relevant items from home
Home reading (ideally, daily)
Phonics/spelling activity
Practice of maths facts

Year 2: Spellings – weekly
Home reading (ideally, daily)
Practice of maths facts
Project/research based on cross-curricular topic work – once a term

KS2:

*In addition to weekly set tasks, there are a range of activities available to pupils through the school's MLE (Managed Learning Environment). The MLE provides many opportunities for children to extend their learning at home. For KS2, **Manga High** is available in addition to **Mathletics and Interactive Resources**.*

*KS2 classes will also be set **Talk for Writing** homework in preparation for **Big Writing** on a Friday (see below)*

Year 3: Spellings – weekly
Maths – weekly
Home reading (aim for 4 times a week)
Project/research for presentation (based on cross-curricular topic work) – once a term

Year 4: Spellings – weekly
Maths – weekly
Home reading (aim for 4 times a week)
English or topic-based written activity – weekly
Project/research for presentation (based on cross-curricular topic work) – once a term

Year 5: Spellings – weekly
English or topic-based written task – weekly
Maths or Science – weekly
Home reading (aim for 4 times a week)
1 piece of extended research work /project presentation – once a term

Year 6: Maths – weekly
English – weekly
Spellings - weekly
Reading – pupils must read at least 3 times a week for 20 minutes
Sats revision (as appropriate)
1 piece of extended research work /project presentation – once a term

Talk homework in KS2

Talk homework is based on the premise 'If the children can say it, they can write it'.

Talk homework is given out weekly. Every child takes home a talk homework slip the day before their class's Big Writing session explaining the writing task and topic that week. It is expected that parents and carers spend around ten minutes discussing with their child the talk homework and the prompts given by the teacher in the talk homework slip. It is recommended to make talk homework as relaxing and as fun as possible. Children may make notes if they want to but this is not essential. It is the talking that is important.

Time

It is difficult to judge how much homework children should have and how much time should be spent on homework. Each child will have different needs and our survey of parents views in 2013 showed that there is a wide range of opinion about this, with some parents feeling there should not be homework in primary schools and others thinking there should be much more.

Clearly learning at home is not just about work sent home from school. It is essential that there is time for family activities, hobbies and interests which support learning. The habit of homework should start in the early years with enjoyable activities which parents and carers can carry out together with the child.

- In Foundation Stage no single activity should take longer than 15 minutes and whilst reading should happen almost daily other types of homework should be limited to one or two activities weekly.
- In Years 1 and 2 no single activity should take longer than 20 minutes and aside from reading, the number of activities given weekly should be limited to two or three.
- In Years 3 and 4 no single activity should take longer than half an hour and aside from reading, the numbers of activities given weekly should be limited to two or three.
- In Years 5 and 6 the number of pieces of homework given weekly will increase gradually to a maximum of four but again no piece of homework should take longer than half an hour.

Feedback

Teachers will provide appropriate feedback through timely and regular marking. This may be through class work (class discussions or feedback on work of which homework assignment is a part), or through tests (tables/spellings), or through individual comments from a teacher.

Recognition of children's efforts at home will be made in school assemblies as well as in the classroom.

Policy reviewed and updated: October 2013

Approved by: **Standards, Teaching & Learning Committee**

date.....23rd January 2014

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