



Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework can be an important part of a child's education, and a way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. Homework also helps develop children as independent learners. We also acknowledge the importance of play and free time in a child's growth and development, and while homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations. We set literacy and numeracy homework each week, where possible, to help children consolidate the learning however, if a child has difficulty completing a task then they can speak to the teacher on the following day.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children additional practice of skills taught in lessons;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting a child's learning;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of homework

We set a variety of homework activities appropriate to a child's learning:

- In Reception and Class 1 we encourage the children to read every day with parents by giving them books to take home. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from time spent reading with their child. We also ask Class 1 children to learn spellings or multiplication tables as part of their homework.
- In Class 2 & 3, we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above but we expect them to do tasks more independently. Children will often have science homework or be required to research a topic that is being learnt at school.

Amount of homework

The Department for Education **recommendation** is that children in Years 1 to 4 spend between 1 - 1 ½ hours per week on homework. This includes home reading and any additional tutoring or clubs. In Years 5 and 6 this increases to approximately 2 ½ hours per week and can include additional learning clubs.

If for any reason homework has not been set, then please ask your child to continue to read their book as normal, practise multiplication tables or write about a current topic in any genre they choose. Setting homework is **not the priority of a classroom teacher** when time constraints exist, but it will be the exception, rather than the rule, when homework tasks are not given out.

Homework will be visually checked once completed and handed in, but it will not be marked. Research has determined that **marking homework** is the least effective way of making an impact on a child's learning.

Pupils with special educational needs or disability

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special educational needs or disability, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set or help their children with the task if they feel necessary. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the headteacher.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to review the policy as and when needed. The current homework policy will be on the school website for parents to access.