

HOMEWORK POLICY

Last review date: April 2022

Next review date: April 2023

Introduction

Homework encompasses a variety of activities set by teachers for parents to support children's learning. Homework should never be a source of stress for between parents and children. Children are answerable to staff for their homework. If a task is taking too long it is probably not productive and a parent note saying 'worked on this for 30 minutes' is preferable to struggling for longer to finish a task which is not going well.

1. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development,
- consolidate, reinforce and extend learning started in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons,
- promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning,
- inform parents and involve them in their child's learning experiences,
- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner,
- help children develop good work habits for the future,
- provide appropriate preparation for future lessons.

2. Types of Homework

We set a variety of homework activities that are tailored as much as possible to the needs of the individual.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

- In Reception, there is an expectation that children will look at books with parents at home. They may, depending on readiness to do so, have some handwriting exercises and the class teacher may suggest, from time to time, some activities for specific children to do at home.
- In Year 1 and 2 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents.
- We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.
- We also ask Year 1 and 2 children to learn spellings, number bonds or multiplication tables as part of their homework.
- We may ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school.
- Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons.
- Occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it.
- When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local libraries as well as guide them in the suitable use of the Internet.

Years 3 to 6

Here homework takes on a more formal approach. We continue to give children the homework activities outlined above, but we expect them to do more tasks independently.

- We set literacy and maths homework routinely each week, plus other subjects which will complement other class work.
- We expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home.
- We also set homework as a means of helping children to revise for examinations as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.
- Holiday homework is not set for children as it is felt that children and parents should not have this 'hanging over them' during holidays. The exception is Year 5 when preparation may be required for Year 6 tests taken in early in the autumn term.

3. Amount of Homework

- We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school.
- Daily reading is expected across all years
- Individual homework timetables are shared with children and parents at the beginning of the year and are made available on the school website.
- The teacher monitors homework by examining homework books.
- There may be instances when children mark and/or evaluate their own work when used as a teaching strategy in class.

Homework (per day) is allocated as follows:

Reception and Year 1:	Reading / Spelling (10 minutes) + occasional additional homework at the weekend
Year 2:	Reading / Spelling / Tables (15 minutes) + additional homework at the weekend
Year 3:	30 minutes
Year 4:	40 minutes
Year 5:	50 minutes
Year 6:	60 minutes

There is rarely homework for Years 3 to 6 on Wednesdays.

Parents are encouraged to support their child's progress by practising reading and comprehension of the text, learning of multiplication tables and practising fluent handwriting.

Homework is not set in holidays apart from in Year 5.

4. Sanctions

Children in Years 3 to 6 are expected to complete their homework to a high standard and to submit their work on time. If they do not, they must finish it at home, to be submitted the following day. If this request is not met, children will complete it during break time(s) or lunch time under the supervision of an adult.

5. Pupils with Learning Needs

- 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 learning needs, set tasks will be adapted where possible so that all children can contribute in a positive way. Often, parents, teachers and the Head of Learning Support will prioritise key learning targets, in order to reduce the overall homework expectation.

6. 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 children to complete the homework tasks that are set.
- We invite them to support their children and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.
- Parents can support their children by providing a good working space at home, by enabling them to visit the library regularly or have safe access to the internet, and by discussing their work with them.
- In Years 3 to 6 Parents are asked to sign the homework book at the end of each week for the homework diary to be handed in on Monday morning.
- If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.
- Finally, if they have concerns about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the Deputy Head.
- Children are asked to use the following code at the end of written homework: NH for no help needed, LH for little help needed and LOH for lots of help needed.