



**Homework Policy
 2016-17**

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Aims and Purpose

We believe that children benefit from tasks and activities that take place beyond normal school hours which support their learning. However, it is not the intention to load relatively young children with more work than is reasonable and beneficial. We fully recognise the value of the broad range of activities e.g. sport, music and leisure which children should be involved in. Homework should therefore be relevant, purposeful, enjoyable and of an appropriate length.

We believe that homework:

- serves to reinforce and support curricular objectives and learning outcomes
- consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in numeracy, literacy and other curriculum areas
- helps raise achievement of individual pupils
- provides opportunities for parents and children to work together and fosters an effective partnership between home and school
- encourages children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline to study on their own

Homework should be:

- reasonable in length and purposeful
- interesting and rewarding for all children
- integrated into everyday planning and set by the class teacher
- differentiated to cater for individual children's learning needs
- clearly understood so that children understand when, what and how the work is to be done
- marked and fed back to the children promptly

What is homework?

Homework refers to any work or activity which children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with an adult. For younger children, this will largely consist of reading. In fact, for all primary age children, reading forms a major part of their homework. Beyond that, the main focus of homework for children at primary school should be on literacy and numeracy.

As children progress through the school, they may be given other tasks – for example, some historical research. We do not believe that much time should be spent on 'finishing off' work begun in class; homework activities should mostly consist of a clear, distinct task.

A regular homework programme

We believe that a homework policy will only be successful if it is based on a clear, regular programme. This means that:

- children know what is expected of them
- parents are aware of when their children are likely to have homework to do and how much time they should spend on it
- parents can be more involved in their children's learning and have a clearer idea of how it links in with school work
- the demands of homework are manageable

Please see **Appendix A** for our homework programme

Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the School Improvement Committee and to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy
- promote this policy by raising its status and importance
- ensure that homework is built into teachers' planning
- provide supportive guidance for parents
- keep up to date with new developments regarding homework

- work closely with the link governor and coordinator
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of the Teachers

Teachers must:

- integrate homework into their planning
- set interesting and motivating tasks or activities
- set homework appropriate to each child
- explain when, what and how the work is to be done so that each child clearly understands (this may involve communications directly with parents)
- provide feedback in line with the marking and feedback policy

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are asked to:

- sign the Home-School Agreement indicating their support for homework
- uphold the value of homework with their children
- provide a suitable space in their home where their children can concentrate on their homework
- establish a homework routine
- provide materials
- make the homework experience pleasurable
- find time to work with their child or be at hand if a problem arises
- discuss, encourage and praise their child's efforts
- contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it
- ensure they get feedback on all homework tasks or activities

Role of Pupils

Pupils are asked to:

- complete their homework and hand it in on time
- make sure they understand what is asked of them
- make sure they get feedback on their homework

Types of Homework

Please see **Appendix A** for our homework programme

Reading

Reading practice and listening to others read is essential throughout primary school. We believe that all children should spend some time each day at home on a reading activity – they may read to or with an adult, listen to an adult read or read independently. Reading is the main element of homework and, although children may read for pleasure every day, it should form part of any regular homework programme on at least three days per week.

Phonics / Spelling

All children in will be given phonics or spelling tasks to do at home on a weekly basis. These tasks will be concise and clearly explained. A child's spelling activity will be a pattern and research based approach rather than a simple list of words to learn.

Maths

- RM Easimaths: our online maths programme can be access via Unify. The software automatically assesses pupils and moves them on to the next task where appropriate.

- Space Mission: it is helpful for all children to practise skills associated with their own mission regularly.
- Maths homework: short, focussed tasks will be set each week for KS2 children.

We also recognise that some of the best learning happens incidentally – counting, measuring, weighing and telling the time. We believe maths homework should be more than just practice of school based tasks.

Other Curriculum Areas

Occasionally, children may be asked to carry out a task related to another area of the curriculum – science, history, geography etc. These activities will occur less regularly but may be more frequent for older children. Children may be asked to do some research and may need their parents’ help. The task may involve an extended piece of writing. If so, a longer time frame will be given.

Books and work going home

We feel it is important that all children should have access to a levelled reading book which they can take home each day and change regularly (this is separate to their free-choice library book). It is important that these resources are cared for and returned to school in good condition.

We expect that children will be regularly carrying backwards and forwards a reading book and homework activity sheets. While we wish to encourage independence in children, responsibility lies with parents to ensure that these items arrive back in school and in good condition. We encourage children to use book bags as they keep papers and books in good condition.

Marking and Feedback

All children receive prompt feedback on their homework in a variety of forms such as:

- verbal
- written
- class discussion
- praise and recognition during an achievement assembly

Parents are asked to:

- give teachers any feedback they feel might be useful
- encourage their children to talk about the feedback they have received
- contact the school if they have any concerns

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Handbook/Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays in the main school entrance

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

Annually (or when the need arises) the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the leadership team, the Headteacher and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the Governors.

Appendix A – Homework Programme

Homework	Who for?	Day set	Day to hand in	To be completed on / in	Recommended time spent on homework
Phonics	EYFS / KS1	It is expected that children practise their sounds (and words) as given by the class teacher as part of a regular (daily) reading experience.			10 minutes per day
Spellings	KS1 and KS2	Wednesday	Monday	Spelling homework sheets given by class teacher	20 minutes to half an hour
Maths Homework (CGP)	Y3 – Y6	Wednesday	Monday	CGP resource book	half an hour
RMEasimaths	Y1 – Y6	It is recommended that children access this resource online 1 or 2 times per week (where available).			10 to 15 minutes.
Space Mission	YR – Y6	It is expected that children practise their Space Mission target 2 to 3 times at home. Each child's targets will be shared in their home-school link book.			10 to 15 minutes.
Reading	All children	It is recommended that children do a small amount of reading each day with their parents.			10 minutes per day
Any other 'extra' homework	This will be determined by your child's class teacher depending on the nature of the homework activity, and this information will be communicated in the home-school link book.				

Appendix B – Frequently Asked Questions

- ***How long will children be given to complete homework?***

We would never expect any homework to be completed by the following day. Children have commitments to other activities in the evening and we do not think it is fair to expect homework to be done on top of these activities. Teachers will generally allow at least two days for tasks and possibly more for some activities. Please see our homework programme for more guidance.

- ***Will homework always be marked?***

If the homework involves writing, the teacher will mark it in the same way as other written work. However, we expect that much of the homework will be reading or practical activities. Teachers will give appropriate feedback to children about their work. However, the feedback children receive from parents is as valuable as teachers' comments.

- ***Will children be given homework in holidays?***

Possibly, but not necessarily. We would not expect the regular programme of work to continue into holidays, but we would like to think that children continue to read and some teachers may occasionally give a specific task to accomplish over a holiday.

- ***Should parents help children with their homework?***

Children benefit from their parents' involvement in their learning. This might be as simple as providing them with the right time and place to do the work or encouraging and praising them when they have completed it. Sometimes children will need more direct help – a parent reading with them or suggesting a way to tackle a maths problem. Sometimes children, particularly as they grow older, need to be left to themselves. Clearly, parents should not do children's work for them. We believe parents are good judges of how much they should help their children. If you are unsure, you can always talk to the class teacher.

- ***Will all children in a class receive the same homework?***

Not always. Children will not all be reading the same book or even the same level of book. Teachers may give different maths or spelling tasks to different groups of pupils. Sometimes the task might be the same, but the teacher will expect different levels of achievement depending on children's abilities.

- ***Will the homework policy be reviewed?***

Like other initiatives in school, the homework policy is constantly monitored. It will be reviewed more formally in accordance with our school development plan. If you have concerns about your child's homework, please contact the class teacher. If the concern is about the school's policy, please contact the head teacher.