



## Homework Policy

### 1 Introduction

**1.1** Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time playing counting games or weighing dry ingredients for baking with their child is contributing to homework.

### 2 Rationale for homework

**2.1** Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed, we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

**2.2** Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. At our school we celebrate our children's out-of-school achievements in assembly once a half term. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside school.

### 3 Aims and objectives

**3.1** The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise the skills taught in lessons.

### 4 Types of homework

**4.1** We know that parents will wish to encourage their child to read at home and many will see this as the most valuable exercise that they can do with their children. We would encourage children to continue to do this and will always provide a wide selection of books to take home and enjoy; these will not necessarily be the reading scheme books that a class teacher uses for instruction. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with



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their child.

**4.2** Our Homework Policy reflects the development needs of our curriculum and so the type and amount of homework will vary depending on the priorities in the School Improvement and Development Plan.

**4.3** The primary purpose of homework in the Early Years is to provide opportunities for children to consolidate and reinforce their in-school learning. In Reception homework will include phonics and reading work along with number activities and games.

**4.4** At Key Stage 1 and 2 it is expected that all children will read at home and take time to practise their Times Tables. Additional to this will be weekly spellings to learn, weekly Talk Homework and weekly mental maths (Yr1) or written arithmetic (Yr 2-6). There may also be opportunities for the class teacher to provide additional research-based work linked to our creative curriculum topics.

**4.5** Each child will have a homework diary; these are used to keep a record of progress and as an open channel of dialogue between home and school. We expect older children to use this diary to make a record of their own progress.

## **5 Pupils with special educational needs**

**5.1** 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 needs, we adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

## **6 The role of parents**

**6.1** 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. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

**6.2** If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

## **7 Monitoring and review**

**7.1** It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the Pupil & Parent Committee who may, at any time, request from the Headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school



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7.2 Parents have the opportunity to complete an annual questionnaire giving their views on homework policy and again when the school is inspected by Ofsted. The governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent.

**Signed:**

**Date:**