



Name of Policy: Homework Policy

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Person responsible for updating policy	SLT/SL
Governors' Committee Responsible	CURRICULUM



Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is a valuable part of a child's education which extends classroom practice and encourages personal achievement and positive attitudes to school life.

This document should be read in conjunction with the school's Teaching and Learning Policy which you can find displayed on our website.

AIMS

Our aims in setting homework are that:

- It is a preparation for the demands of Secondary school life
- A child develops the skills of an independent learner.
- It should build a self- motivating and positive attitude to learning
- It provides worthwhile and meaningful tasks
- It helps develop self esteem
- Parents have the opportunity to take an active interest in their child's learning by giving support and encouragement
- Offers opportunities to explore further the full spectrum of the school curriculum.

HOMEWORK MIGHT INCLUDE:

- Reading practice
- Research skills
- Number practice - including multiplication tables
- Reinforcement tasks covering work practised in class.
- Extension work and research activities to enhance study by making use of out of school material
- Handwriting practice for formal writing

GUIDELINES

Reading

In Years 3 & 4 children will be expected to take books home daily to read independently or shared with an adult at least three times a week. All children in Years 5 & 6 should be encouraged to read regularly, in particular on nights when other homework is not set. Adults should remember to sign the reading record/homework diary every time a child has set aside a time to read. This is monitored and checked in class.

Tables

All children will regularly be asked to practice multiplication tables. Children are awarded Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Certificates when they have learnt their tables.

Year 3

By the first half term children will be set a 40 minute piece of work once per week.

Year 4

Children will be set a 45 minute piece of work twice a week.

Year 5

Children will be set a 45 minute task three times a week.

Year 6

At the beginning of Year 6 a homework timetable will be given to the children, which will involve four 30/40 minute set pieces of work. Each child has a homework diary in which he/she can note the work to be done.

Year group teachers will work closely together in the planning and setting of homework to ensure differentiation takes place and consistency of practice.

Holiday Work

The school will not set homework in the holidays however there are many things that can be done during the holidays without formal setting of homework. We would encourage parents to attempt some of the following:

- Reading with your children
- Learning multiplication tables
- Making use of local libraries to research work planned to take place after the holidays
- Visiting places of educational interest, such as museums.
- Keeping a diary
- Using the internet and educational websites



Guidance to support the policy

The Teacher

Homework is school policy that is managed by the class teacher. To implement the principles which support our policy, each teacher is required to:

- Set homework for their teaching groups as specified in the homework procedures for each year group
- Ensure that the homework is appropriate to the learning capabilities of each child
- Collect and mark homework regularly
- Contact parents of children that regularly fail to complete homework assignments
- Ensure that the children in their teaching groups enter their homework in the Reading Record book or Homework Diary.

The Child

The child also has responsibilities and it is often an important part of the learning process that these are discussed and explained to them.

- Each child should record their homework in their Reading Record book (Years 3 & 4) or Homework Diary (Years 5 & 6)
- Each child has an obligation to attempt to do their homework and return it at the agreed time.
- Each child should see their teacher if they have difficulty in completing homework. This is so appropriate support can be given and a revised date for handing it in can be agreed.

The Parent or Guardian

Research has shown that a child's progress is enhanced through the involvement of their parents. It is therefore evident that homework provides an opportunity for parents to take a supportive role in their child's education.

- Parents should establish a routine that makes homework an important aspect of family life
- They should attempt to provide a quiet and suitable environment for homework to be done
- They should try to share aspects of homework such as reading or assistance in learning tables
- They should not find themselves doing the homework for their child
- They should not allow the child to work for excessive periods of time.
- If the work is not completed in the suggested time, then the child should see the teacher for advice and support, not work all night!



Homework – Consistency of Practice

- Reading records must be checked, signed and house points awarded. 3 house points per day. (No more than 21 points per week).
- Homework diaries are checked weekly.
- Group teachers set, collect and mark* their own group's homework.
- Group Teachers must have clear sanctions and consequences for:
 - non-completion of homework
 - non-completion of minimum reading target (3 x per week)
 - non-handing in of Reading Record or Homework Diary
- The sanctions for non-completion of homework must be followed up i.e. kept in for play, complete homework in workroom at lunchtime or homework sent home to be redone / completed.
- Distribution - Marking and use of Homework Books is consistent across the year group.
- Learning objective must be clearly visible on all homework
- Colouring and 'writing out' should not be the majority of the task (unless it is art homework). Editing and re-drafting is permitted.
- Homework should be challenging, relevant and consolidating.
- The homework should follow on from classwork covered in school. Examples must be shown in class or examples given on the homework sheet itself.
- Teachers will explain the homework in class before/during its distribution.
- Repeated non-completion of homework must be reported to the Head or Deputy and a letter sent to the parents reiterating that the home/school agreement includes ensuring homework is completed on time, fully and to an acceptable standard.

*Defined answers in homework i.e. a mental maths test have clearly defined answers that may be marked by a TA or support staff if that staff member is happy to mark them.

Date

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing regarding your child _____ as they have now failed to complete homework set on several occasions. I would like to remind you that as part of the Wallace Fields Junior School parent/school agreement, it is your responsibility to allow your child the time and space to complete the homework on time, fully and to an acceptable standard.

The homework is clearly set out, and the deadlines are set to be met. The homework policy is on our school website and we strongly believe that homework not only consolidates the learning completed in the classroom but importantly gets your child ready for homework in secondary school.

Please contact me or write a note in the homework diary/reading record if there is a specific reason why your child is not completing the homework as sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that effect children and their ability to complete the work set.

I am keen to gain your support in your child's learning and hope that all future homework will be completed fully, on time and to a high enough standard. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Yours