

Grove Wood Primary
School

Homework Policy



November 2018

Homework policy

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Autumn Term 2018.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do;
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of achievement;
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment;
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning;
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences;
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning;
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in English and mathematics;
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently;
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career;
2. The amount and frequency of homework and how it should be appropriate for the age and stage of the child;
3. That homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher;
4. That homework will not necessarily come in the form of a written task;
5. That homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Year teams will provide clear guidance as to the regular day when homework will be set and the regular day when homework should be completed by. At Grove Wood Primary School, we set homework which is in line with the **government recommendations** as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

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Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

Please note that whilst homework could be completed in one longer session, we would encourage the homework to be broken into more manageable chunks, especially as many of the homework tasks will involve short, daily practise within the areas of reading, spelling and mental maths.

Homework Tasks

Homework for Years 1-6 will involve the following:

- regular reading of the child's reading book;
- practising of weekly sounds/spellings;
- practising of weekly mathematics tasks, including the learning of number bonds and timestables.

Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development. Some tasks may be online and others may be paper-based.

The emphasis of homework is on the practising of key skills which will then be recognised in school.

- Reading will be recognised using progression on the 'Reading Race'.
- Spellings will be recognised using a weekly spelling assessment.
- Mathematics will be recognised using a weekly mathematics task and progression across the 'Race Track'.

At Grove Wood Primary School, we believe that all adults have a role in supporting the home learning of our children.

The class teacher will:

- Provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a curriculum information meetings or at an open evening if possible;.
- Set up regular homework in an easily followed routine;
- Ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the year group;
- Set homework that takes equal opportunities into account;
- Ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught;
- Reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks;
- Celebrate homework using a range of strategies including (but not exclusive to) marking, house points and asking a child to share their homework with a peer to appraise.

The Headteacher and Governing Body will

- Check the compliance of the Policy;
- Meet and talk with parents when appropriate;
- Discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

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Parents/Carers will

- Support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework;
- Provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework;
- Encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework;
- Become actively involved and support their child with homework activities;
- Make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

At Grove Wood Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Grove Wood Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

General

- Wherever possible staff will acknowledge homework that is returned by pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. However, marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.
- If homework is handed in late, without good reason, teachers may not be able to mark it. If this becomes a regular pattern, the teacher will discuss this with the child, the parent and a member of the SLT.
- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. **In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Headteacher first.**
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in the Autumn Term 2019