

Homework Policy

At Biggin C.E. Primary School we believe spending time at home on school learning can deliver benefits for the child. Research shows that children who actively revisit and practise skills and learning, including explaining what they have learned, make better progress and retain knowledge more easily. Homework can play an important role in this process.

Homework should be easy for the child to complete, take a short time to complete, not involve lengthy involvement from parents and carers or expensive resources and not involve excessive planning and assessment by teachers.

Parents and carers can play an active role by supporting and encouraging their children to complete homework. It should be a positive experience and not become a source of anxiety for parents or children. It is important to remember that homework set belongs to the child and is not the parents' responsibility to complete.

All homework resources such as spelling books, reading books and Reading Records, etc should be transported between home and school in a named book bag.

Government guidelines permit the movement of resources between home and school however due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic care should be taken in their use. All resources should be kept clean and quarantined in school for 24 hours after use. Parents, children and teaching staff should wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after using all homework resources.

The purpose of homework

The main purposes of homework supported at Biggin C of E Primary School are:

- Providing an opportunity to increase fluency in Reading and improve comprehension skills.
- Providing activities to consolidate skills and knowledge learned at school.
- Enabling opportunities for children to explain their learning to others at home. This helps consolidate their learning and put ideas into their own words. It also helps parents understand how children are approaching topics and how to provide support if they are able.
- Providing direction children to develop their own lines of inquiry, reading and research to pursue independently.
- Developing a 'lifelong learning' attitude and good independent study skills for high school and beyond.

How parents can help children

- Talk to their child about their learning and actively engage in conversations which require the child to explain what they know and what they have learned. This helps the

child understand their learning more thoroughly and retain what they know and have learned.

- Hear their child read aloud regularly.
- Share stories and discuss news and current affairs with their children at an age appropriate level.
- Provide children with a reasonably quiet place to do their homework, at a time which is suitable for learning. Late night completion before school the next day should always be avoided.
- Provide support as their child completes their work by encouraging their effort and being available to help them stay focused. Parents are not expected to complete homework for their child or answer questions about it. Instead, parents should encourage children to use available resources such as their skills and knowledge, spellings lists, information sheets, dictionaries, etc.
- Promote a positive attitude to learning and homework.
- Discuss how the homework tasks have gone with their child and praise their child for making a good effort.
- Raise any concerns with the class teacher.

The amount of homework

Teachers will ensure that the amount of homework set is manageable. Homework should not get in the way of family life, play or other after school activities in which children may engage. A minimum of two days will be given before homework is checked or tested in school. Teachers will set tasks which most children can complete within 30 minutes.

Children who persistently fail to complete homework tasks may be asked to do them at lunchtimes. Parents should raise any concerns about the completion of homework with the class teacher.

The type of homework

In Key Stage 1, homework will be focussed on daily reading and sharing books with parents and carers, learning spellings and number facts. Occasionally homework may involve drawing and playing games.

In Key Stage 2, homework includes all of the activities listed in Key Stage 1 plus:

- Researching information about a topic currently being studied in school
- Short pieces of written work
- Short activities in response to topic work or current affairs
- Grammar and punctuation practice.

Homework tasks will be differentiated to ensure they are achievable and inclusive of all, regardless of religious belief or non-belief, gender, race and special educational needs.

Children will be encouraged to present their work neatly and tidily. The school will provide paper and resources for all children to complete homework.

Monitoring and evaluating the homework policy

- Policy to be reviewed every two years by the Curriculum Committee;
- Parents' opinions to be asked through the annual questionnaire;
- Parents are encouraged to raise concerns with the Headteacher or class teachers.