



# HOMEWORK POLICY

Approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Spring term, 2020.  
Review date - 2023.

## Aims

The aims of this policy are: -

- To ensure that parents are clear about the type and duration of homework their child is expected to do;
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- To ensure there is progression in the amount and difficulty of homework children receive as they progress through the school;
- To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment;

## The Purpose of Homework

- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning;
- To give parents an indication of the quality and standard of work currently being undertaken in school and thereby give them an opportunity to support their child and the work of the school;
- To allow parents to see the level their child is working at;
- To encourage children to develop the self-discipline, responsibility and confidence needed to study independently;
- To reinforce the learning taking place in class by providing opportunities for individual learning;
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences;
- To consolidate or practice basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. Should there be any concerns about your child completing homework, please talk to the class teacher who can offer advice and, if necessary, adjust the homework set for your child. Homework should consolidate learning and challenge your child without too much parental intervention.

## Role of the Teacher

- To plan and prepare appropriate homework suitable to the child's age and ability;
- To give guidance to parents on how they might assist their child with homework. This may be done by a note with the work, by phone or at a meeting with the parent;
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine;
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes;
- To ensure that any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught;
- To mark homework when necessary and give constructive verbal or written feedback, aimed at improvement, to pupils;

- To ensure that homework is clearly explained to the pupil.

### **Role of the Principal and Governing Body**

- To ensure that this policy is carried out;
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate;
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

### **Role of the Parent/Guardian**

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts their homework;
- To check their child's homework diary and to sign it to indicate that the work has been completed;
- To provide a suitable place for the child to complete their homework and to observe the time limits as suggested by the school;
- To provide the necessary tools such as pencils, scissors, glue etc. to allow the child to complete their homework;
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework;
- To be actively involved and support their child with homework activities;
- To check marked homework and encourage their child to take any action suggested by the teacher to improve their work;
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning;
- To inform the class teacher if there are persistent difficulties when completing homework.

### **Role of the Pupil**

- To ensure they have their homework diary with them;
- To ensure before they leave school that they have all the books etc. they need to complete their homework;
- To ensure that they understand any homework tasks before they leave school. When in doubt, we encourage all children to ask for further clarification;
- To attempt all homework and complete it to the best of their ability;
- To push themselves to provide the best work they can;
- To ensure that homework is returned to the teacher on time.

### **Homework Tasks**

- Homework will normally be indicated in the pupil's homework diary (or in the form of the weekly Helping at Home sheet for Year 1 and Year 2) and will always be explained clearly to the pupils before they leave school. If confusion occurs, we would encourage parents to write a note in the Homework Diary rather than struggle with

uncertainty. Pupils are always encouraged to seek further explanation before they leave school if they are unsure of what is being asked of them.

- Children may be set a homework which can be completed over the course of several days - this generally happens in Year 7 as part of the process of preparing children for transition to post-primary school.
- Two or three night's reading is often set at one session from Year 4 upwards - this allows parents and children some flexibility with regard to evening activities such as sports clubs.

### **Recommended Time Allocation**

Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or teacher, nor should it require more than the designated time (see below) to complete. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact their child's teacher for advice;

If your child is in a composite class, their homework should still generally fall within the guidelines below-

Class	Approx. Time	Homework (Monday to Thursday)
Year 1	15-20 minutes	From end September - Daily: Reading, Phonics 1 written Maths + 1 written Literacy homework per week.
Year 2	15-20 minutes	Daily: Reading, Phonics, Spelling 1 written Maths + 1 written Literacy homework per week.
Year 3	30 minutes	Daily: Reading, Maths facts, Spelling  1 written Maths + 1 written Literacy homework per week.
Year 4	30 minutes	Daily: Reading, Maths facts, Spelling 3 written Maths or Literacy homeworks per week
Year 5	35-40 minutes	Daily: Reading, Maths facts, Spelling 3 written Maths or Literacy homeworks per week
Year 6	45 - 50 minutes	Daily: Reading, Maths facts, Spelling 4 written Maths or Literacy homeworks per week
Year 7	45 - 50 minutes	Daily: Reading, Maths facts, Spelling 4 written Maths or Literacy homeworks per week

Homework may be reduced close to holiday periods and will not normally be set at weekends. Parents are encouraged to allow their child to access other reading materials/online learning if they wish to work with their child at the weekend.

The above times outlined are designed to leave children opportunity for taking their proper share in family life and developing interests not directly connected with the school. If parents find that homework is consistently taking longer than suggested, they should make an appointment to speak to the class teacher.

### **Presentation**

Presentation of work is always important. Untidy work should not be accepted and, like other work which does not match a pupil's ability, it should be repeated. Parents are asked not to tear pages out of books - simply rule a line through work to be repeated - this allows the teacher to endorse the actions and expectations of the parent. However, care should be taken to give assistance with such things as pencil grip and handwriting style to pupils who have genuine difficulty. Praise is also a great motivator as far as presentation and effort are concerned.

### **Inclusion**

Homework may be differentiated to allow all pupils to learn and succeed. Pupils in the same class may be given separate activities or fewer sections / questions to complete. Equally, the amount and/or type of homework given to individual pupils can vary according to their needs. If a parent feels that their child's special needs affect their ability to complete homework, they should contact the class teacher or Mrs Hargie (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) for advice.

### **General**

- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child is too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for an extended period e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how work should be marked and what sort of support needs to be given. In such circumstances, the teacher will consult with the Principal.
- Homework will not be provided if parents take holidays during term time.