

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.

We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Homework guidelines

In Foundation Stage

What type of work will my child get?

Nursery students do not receive any formal homework.

Reception children will begin to bring reading books, sight vocabulary, phonics and number work home from the beginning of the second term onwards.

Reading

Adults reading to children: Parents are encouraged to read books to their children. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read when the text is appropriate. Talking about the books is also important: what happened, what did you like best and why, what was your favourite part etc?

Children reading to an adult: When they are ready to, children will start bringing books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language. Predicting what they think will happen next is also very useful for understanding.

Letter formation.

Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools gives them valuable practice to develop fine motor skills. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively, so they don't fall into bad habits.

High frequency words.

Regularly practising reading them, writing them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

In Key Stage 1 We encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy and reading, but we include ways in which children can be supported with important numeracy skills.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in year one and two. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words i.e using their phonics knowledge to sound words out, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words, are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read.

Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

High Frequency Words

Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1, which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight. Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these, by practising them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further. Children should have the opportunity to practice their words over the summer holidays.

Numeracy

Children will be given homework to develop important numeracy skills. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills.

By the end of year 2:

- Children should be confident in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Children should be able to double each number up to 20.
- Children should be able to halve each even number up to 20.
- Children should know their number bonds of all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Children should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.
- Children should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

Teachers will sometimes send home key number facts and shape names to learn.

At Key Stage 2, As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children, but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be Literacy and Numeracy, however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves, in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the text, that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction.

Parents should continue to complete their child's reading record to show that they have read to an adult or had a discussion about the book.

Literacy

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

Numeracy

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 10. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

Other Areas

Work could be linked to any other curriculum area, Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview.

The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas.

Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

Children who take part in specialised lessons such as Booster Classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done. Additionally, children who work in a one to one situation with teaching assistants will sometimes be given extra

homework. In both cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise.

What will happen if children don't complete their homework?

The expectation is that children will complete their homework. However if for any reason children are unable to complete their homework, parents/ carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day the homework was due to be returned to school. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. A comment will also be made on children's termly reports. There may be occasions when a child will miss playtime or some of a lunch time, if they have not completed homework.

What if a child says they have received no homework?

If there is any reason why a child has not received homework, their teacher will inform parents. If parents have not received a letter or email, then they should check on their class Edmodo site or with the child's teacher.

Responding to children and ensuring homework is completed.

Children who complete their homework are

- Praised
- Rewarded with class incentives

They are encouraged to complete their work to the time frame given and to complete the required tasks. If a child persistently does not complete the required homework, students in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will miss Golden time and parents will be informed.

Amount of homework

International/ English subjects' homework

Reception	Thirty -forty minutes per week
Year 1/2	One hour per week
Year 3 and 4	One and a half hours per week.
Year 5 and 6	Two hours per week

Spanish homework

Year 1/2	Half an hour per week
Year 3 and 4	One hour per week.
Year 5 and 6	One hour per week

German homework

Year 2	20 minutes per week
Year 3 and 4	Half an hour per week
Year 5 and 6	Half an hour per week

In Secondary, Children should be taking much more responsibility for their own homework, writing down in their planner what has to be done and by when.

Homework is carried out to reinforce and develop children's knowledge of content and skills learnt during lessons, as well as continuing to provide an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents continue to support their children, especially in respect to the quality of work produced and meeting deadlines.

What type of work will my child get and how much?

Children can potentially be given homework for any subject they do in Secondary. There is no specific timetable / rota for issuing homework in Key Stage 3 or Key Stage 4, due to the nature of Secondary school and children having numerous teachers.

However, the following rules do apply in respect to teachers issuing homework to Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students:

Key Stage 3

- A teacher cannot set homework for the next day.
- Only one lot of homework per week can be set for each subject (as a maximum). A particular subject teacher might not set homework every week.
- Once a week Key Stage 3 lessons, set their homework (if any) on a weekly basis, and is due in the following week when they have their next lesson for that subject. There may be occasions when teachers ask for homework to be handed in beforehand, such as when their next lesson falls on a bank holiday.

Key Stage 4

- A teacher cannot set homework for the next day.
- Only two lots of homework per week can be set for each subject (as a maximum). A particular subject teacher might not set homework every week.
- Once a week Key Stage 4 lessons, set their homework (if any) on a weekly basis, and is due in the following week when they have their next lesson for that subject. There may be occasions when teachers ask for homework to be handed in beforehand, such as when their next lesson falls on a bank holiday.

What will happen if children don't complete their homework?

The expectation is that children will complete their homework. However if for any reason children are unable to complete their homework, parents / carers should provide the subject teacher with a note or contact the subject teacher giving a good and reasonable reason as to why the homework has not been completed on the day the homework was due to be returned to school. If the teacher feels that the reason

given is a reasonable one, the child is to hand it in the next day or at the nearest possible opportunity (due date set by subject teacher).

If no explanation is given as to why a child has failed to complete their homework, or it is not considered to be a reasonable reason by the subject teacher, the child may have a negative comment placed in the Day Diary or be given a direct break, lunch or after school detention.

Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. Parents may be contacted directly about their child's lack of homework, depending on the frequency that a student fails to meet deadlines for a particular subject. A homework comment may also be made on children's termly reports.

What if a child is away on the day homework is set or due to be handed in?

On their first day back to school it is the child's responsibility if they have been away, to ask each subject teacher of the lessons missed as to what homework was set and when it is due.

If a child was away on the day homework was due, they should hand it in to their appropriate subject teacher on their first day back to school. If they don't have a lesson on the first day back with the subject teacher whose homework wasn't handed in, they should ask for permission to find him / her during registration, break or lunch time.

What if a child says they have received no homework?

It is the child's responsibility to write down in their planner what homework has to be done and by when. We ask that parents support their children by also checking their child's planner.

In the near future, Edmodo or Google Classroom will also be used by Secondary subject teachers to record homework content and due dates, providing students with a backup in case they lose their planner or leave it at school. However, children will still be responsible for recording what homework they have and for when it is due, giving importance to the development of independent learning and organisational skills.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers 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.

Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them on at least three occasions during each week.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the Head teacher.

Homework is seen in part as a preparation for the more independent learning undertaken at secondary school. If homework is not completed a standard format letter is sent home informing parents and asking for their support. If the situation is not resolved parents will be asked in to see the Head of Teaching and Learning.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Your teacher will give you a log in for your child on registered school sites that homework has been set.

We discourage children from bringing computer disks or memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is e-mailed to the teacher at school.

Please refer to the following timetables to ensure that you know which days your children will be receiving homework and on which days they should return it to school.

Reception class and primary school homework timetables

International classes

DAYS	Reception (2 nd /3 rd term)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Monday							
Tuesday							
Wednesday							
Thursday	Homework will be sent home for all year groups on this day. Homework is to be returned on this day (the following week) Spellings, dictation and times tables will be tested on this day.						
Friday							

Spanish

	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday				Homework is to be given out and returned on this day. Year 5K and 5A	
Friday	Homework is to be given out and returned on this day.	Homework is to be given out and returned on this day. Year 3A and 3R	Homework is to be given out and returned on this day. Year 4R and 4M		Homework is to be given out and returned on this day.

German

DAYS	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Monday					
Tuesday		Homework is to be given out and returned on this day. Class 3A			
Wednesday				Homework is to be given out and returned on this day. Class 5K and KA	
Thursday		Homework is to be given out and returned on this day. Class 3R			Homework is to be given out and returned on this day.
Friday	Homework is to be given out and returned on this day.		Homework is to be given out and returned on this day. Class 4R and 4M		