



HOMework POLICY

The setting of homework is considered by teachers, parents/carers and pupils to be an intrinsic part of school life.

As children progress through the school, more will be expected of them in content and in the length of time spent on work at home. We see homework as being a valuable link between home and school, where parents can be involved positively in their child's education.

AIMS:

- to consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom;
- to increase a parent's/carer's involvement in the educational development of his/her child;
- to assist with the development of an effective partnership between school and parents.
- to give parents/carers insight into the learning their children are doing in school;
- to establish habit and the skills needed for independent study.

It is vital for the pupils that there is consistency in the approach to setting homework throughout the school and also between the classes in each year group. Because of this the following is normally the case when setting homework:

- the same type of work will be set for the whole class, although it may vary in level of difficulty depending on the ability of the child;
- homework will normally be based on work already covered in class or related to work covered in class;
- year groups will work together to ensure a consistency of approach.



There is an explanation of what homework will be set throughout the school year as part of the year group parent/carer induction meetings held in September of each year. However, the following general guidelines apply to all year groups:

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family.

- Parents/carers should inform their child's teacher if their child is experiencing persistent difficulties with the completion of homework tasks.
- The amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
- Homework will not necessarily always come in the form of a written task.
- Homework is normally set four nights a week (it may not always be a written homework) for all classes i.e. Monday - Thursday night and should reflect a child's age and ability.
- Homework is not set for completion over the weekend, this includes a Friday night.
- Homework will not be set for completion during school holidays.
- Reading, the learning of spellings and mathematical facts/tables/mental arithmetic activities form important elements of all homework set.
- Parents/carers are requested to sign all reading diaries
- In Primary 2 - Primary 7 spellings are set Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night. The children should revise the week's spellings on a Thursday for a spelling for a test on a Friday.
- Homework or work will not be provided for pupils if holidays are taken during term time.
- There may be occasions when no homework will be set eg. individual pupil reward, class reward, or in light of a special event happening.
- If a homework activity is taking too long to complete, parents/carers should endorse unfinished work as having taken the allocated time.
- Teachers will inform parents/carers if children are regularly failing to produce homework.
- Homework will be marked as soon as possible and in line with the school's **Marking Policy**.



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 setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

Homework *normally* consists of:

- Reading;
- Phonics/spellings;
- Mathematical facts/tables/mental arithmetic activities;
- Written activity (Normally Literacy, Numeracy or topic based)

On occasions a written activity may not be set as the homework may include research activities, preparation for class talks/show and tell etc.

Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1

The following are examples of the types of homework which may be given.

- Learning letter sounds and individual spellings;
- Learning to read and spell high frequency words;
- Reading - Children are encouraged to read each day;
- Literacy and Numeracy activities linked to the developmental stage of the child;
- Activities relating to number bonds, multiplication tables etc;
- Finding out information by talking to an adult;
- Homework may be topic related, for example bringing something into school.

Key Stage 2

It is important that pupils should gradually get into the habit of being expected to work at home. They should be encouraged to develop personal study skills which require them to devote regular periods to time to studying on their own. By the time pupils reach Primary 7 their homework programme covers a wide range of tasks and curriculum content. This should not only benefit their learning but also assist the transition into the post primary sector.

The following are examples of the types of homework which may be given:

- Learning to read and spell medium frequency words;
- Learning more complex spelling patterns and rules;



- Sustained reading - Reading book/ library book to be taken home and children to be encouraged to read each day;
- Writing tasks covering a range of writing styles, e.g. report, narrative, playscript, persuasive, explanation, poetry;
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- Activities relating to, multiplication tables, calculation strategies and shape and space etc;
- Mathematical concepts including problem solving;
- Research activities.

Teachers should provide:

- guidance on how homeworks can be completed;
- deadlines for completion of homework;
- support and guidance for parents/carers.

Role of Parents/Carer

If our homework policy is to be successful in achieving our aims, then parents/carers must be clear about the ways in which they can support their children.

We will encourage parents/carers to:

- provide a reasonably suitable place in which pupils can do their homework;
- take an interest in the homework being undertaken;
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework;
- always encourage their child to complete the homework to the best of their ability and return it to school on time;
- always praise their child's efforts for completing their homework;
- sign their child's reading diary

Homework Guidelines for each year group



Primary 1: 20 minutes

Primary 2/3: 30 minutes

Primary 4/5: 40 minutes

Primary 6/7: 45 minutes

Homework Timetable

Primary 1	January- June	Reading	Learning activity	-	-
Primary 2	September- June	Reading	Learning activity	Spellings (Start in November)	-
Primary 3-7	September- June	Reading	Written homework (Literacy/Numeracy/Topic)	Spellings	Tables

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