



## 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 to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

### Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the White Paper *Excellence in Schools*, where homework was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. 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.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

**We hold a Homework Club on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after School. 3.45 -4.45 pm. To be supervised by the SMT. Except on Wednesdays.**

### 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 all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

### Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. We set a variety of homework activities.

In the Foundation Stage (Reception) and at Key Stage 1 (Yrs 1 & 2) we give children books to take home and read with their parents. We give guidance to parents on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings and complete a weekly mathematical game or activity.

Sometimes we ask children to find out about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet and CD-ROMs. These are optional, enrichment activities.

In Years 5 & 6, we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined in paragraph 4.2, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set English, Maths and Science homework routinely each week, and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

### **Amount of homework**

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in classes 1 & 2 to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework. We expect children in classes 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15–20 minutes per night on homework, and children in classes 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night plus reading on a daily basis for all children – a minimum of 15 minutes per night.

All homework is explained and discussed in class. Clear instructions and the return date are always sent home. In addition, each class has its own Homework Planner.

### **Inclusion and homework**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

### **The Role of Parents and/or Carers**

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents 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 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.

We ask parents to check the homework and sign it, check the planner and ensure that all homework is completed and returned to school by the due date.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the subject teacher who has set the homework.

### **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 merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

Children are not allowed to bring computer disks from home into school, because of the risk of viruses.

## Homework Planner

### Class 1

SUBJECT	HOMEWORK	DAY SENT HOME	RETURN DAY
Maths	Topic Work	Friday	Wednesday
English	Reading Rules	Monday	Monday
	Reading book	Friday	Friday
	Spelling	Thursday	Tuesday

### Class 2

SUBJECT	HOMEWORK	DAY SENT HOME	RETURN DAY
Maths	Topic Work	Friday	Wednesday
English	Reading Rules	Wednesday	Wednesday
	Reading book	Friday	Friday
	Spelling	Thursday	Tuesday
	Comprehension (second term)	Thursday	Tuesday

### Class 3

SUBJECT	HOMEWORK	DAY SENT HOME	RETURN DAY
Maths	Worksheet	Thursday	Thursday
English	Library book folder	Wednesday	Wednesday
	Written task (normally comprehension)	Tuesday	Monday
	Spelling	Thursday	Tuesday
	Book study	Friday	Thursday

### Class 4

SUBJECT	HOMEWORK	DAY SENT HOME	RETURN DAY
Maths	Worksheet	Thursday	Thursday
English	Written task (normally comprehension)	Wednesday	Tuesday
	Spelling	Thursday	Tuesday
	Book study	Thursday	Wednesday
	Library book folder	Monday	Monday

### Class 5

SUBJECT	HOMEWORK	DAY SENT HOME	RETURN DAY
Maths	Worksheet	Thursday	Thursday
English	Comprehension	Thursday	Monday
	Spelling	Thursday	Tuesday
	Library book	Wednesday	Wednesday
	Book study	Wednesday	Monday
	Verbal reasoning (Starting after Christmas)	Thursday	Tuesday

## Class 6

SUBJECT	HOMEWORK	DAY SENT HOME	RETURN DAY
Maths	Worksheet	Thursday	Tuesday
English	Comprehension	Thursday	Monday
	Spelling	Thursday	Tuesday
	Library book	Wednesday	Wednesday
	Book study	Thursday	Tuesday
Spanish		Friday	Tuesday
Science		Friday	Tuesday
Reasoning	Christmas term only	Tuesday	Monday

## Year 7

SUBJECT	HOMEWORK	DAY SENT HOME	RETURN DAY
Maths	Worksheet	Thursday	Tuesday
English	Comprehension	Thursday	Monday
	Spelling	Thursday	Tuesday
	Shakespeare	Tuesday	Friday
	Library book	Friday	Friday
	Book Study	Thursday	Wednesday
Spanish		Monday	Wednesday
French	Worksheet	Tuesday	Monday
Science		Monday	Thursday
History		Wednesday	Monday
Geography & RE	Alternate weeks	Monday	Friday

### Monitoring and Review

The Principal is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

Principal:		Date:	

**REVIEW DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_