



Homework Policy

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The purpose of our 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. 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.

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 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.

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.

EYFS and KS1

In the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 we give children books to take home and read with their parents. 'Chatter Packs' are given out weekly to pupils in EYFS and Y1, containing guidance to parents on supporting their child during this time spent reading at home. We also ask children to learn key words, spellings, and take home a maths pack/booklet for half a term as part of their homework. We may ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on homes, we ask children to find out what type of homes they lived in. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in lessons. As part of our topic work each term we have a Take Away Task (TAT) where we ask parents and children to work together on a task such as 'making their ideal home', 'making a mini beast' etc.

Guidance About Homework in EYFS and KS1 for Parents

- If you are unsure about homework that has been set please talk to the Class Teacher or EYFS/Y1 Leader.

KS2

In Key Stage 2 pupils are expected to read daily at home with their parents. Pupils take home a choice grid where they may choose which pieces of homework to do each week. This may include writing, mathematics, discussions, experiments etc. Pupils in Y6 also do an in depth book review each week.

We may ask children to talk about a topic at home whilst studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on the Egyptians, we ask children to make an artifact that could go in to the class museum.

Guidance About Homework in KS2

- Please make sure you know which day of the week homework is set and when it is due in.
- If your child struggles with the homework please talk to the class teacher who will either spend time explaining the task or ask for the child to attend homework club that week.
- In Y3/4 the reward for completing homework and handing it in on time is to receive dojos which give more freedom during Golden Time. The sanction for not completing homework and handing it in on time is to spend part of Golden Time completing the homework that was set.
- In Y5/6 the reward for completing homework and handing it in on time is Golden Time (plus good behavior also earns Golden Time). The sanction for not completing homework and handing it in on time is a missed break time and then completing the homework during Golden Time.

- If you feel that there are exceptional circumstances as to why homework has not been completed please talk to a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will decide what action will be taken based on the following:
 - How many evenings and parts of the weekend were disrupted by the exceptional circumstances?
 - Did the child ask for advice from the class teacher about their homework?
 - Did the child attend homework club if they struggled with the work?
 - What proportion of the homework was completed/not completed?

Across the Primary

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.

Some examples of homework activities that the children **should be doing regularly**:

- reading with parents, sharing a book, discussing the story, looking at the pictures, making predictions, discussing characters, author's style etc.
- reading alone independently
- informal games to practice maths skills - board games, card games etc.

Additional activities may include:

- preparing a presentation to the class
- finding out information and writing it in their own words
- making something
- trying out a simple scientific experiment
- cooking

Amount of homework

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. **This includes reading with a parent each night.** The time varies according to the type of homework set.

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. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The role of parents

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.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

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.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Espresso Primary is available on our school website for parents and children to log into. This website contains many different curriculum activities to enhance the education of pupils. **Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.**

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Parents complete a questionnaire each year, and also during the school's Ofsted inspection where they have an opportunity to comment about homework. Our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our Headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

This policy was drawn up by the staff and adopted by the governors in December 2014.

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