



Homework Policy

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| Date the policy came into effect | September 2020 |
| Date of next policy review | 2022 |
| Name of person responsible for this policy | Christopher Fulton |
| Other related policies | T&L, Curriculum |
| Issued to | Staff, governors, parents |

Rationale

Our school believes that homework is an important part of every child's entitlement. However, in order for it to be effective, it should be consistently applied across and within year groups.

This policy was created as a result of consultation with the entire school community.

The purposes of setting homework must be clearly understood by the whole school community.

The purpose of homework at our school is:

- the consolidation of skills and knowledge taught at school
- parental awareness of the curriculum
- developing self-discipline and responsibility
- providing opportunity for independent learning.

Homework should not:

- become a source of anxiety
- cause conflict in the home or conflict between home and school
- encourage children to copy material
- be done by parents.

In this policy we aim to set out clearly what we expect from members of staff, children and parents. We aim to establish a clear dialogue and open lines of communication so that any problems are quickly shared and addressed.

Content

Homework is set throughout the school from Primary 1.

Homework consists of the following within each year group:

Primary 1 (Max 20 mins per day)

Homework will be introduced at separate intervals throughout the year. Parents should refer to information provided by class teachers for this information.

Learning Log – Children will have a learning log / creative homework to complete once a fortnight based on their topic. Children will have 2 weeks to complete this type of homework.

Primary 2 (Max 30 mins per day)

Pupils will have reading homework Monday to Thursday evenings each week.

They will have one sound strip to practise each week and/or spellings given out on a Monday.

They will be learning their tricky words continuously as required.

There is formal homework on Wednesday. Formal homework to be handed in by the following Monday.

Mental Maths Homework will be given on a Monday night for the week.

Learning Log – Children will have a learning log / creative homework to complete once a fortnight based on their topic. Children will have 2 weeks to complete this type of homework.

Primary 3 (Max 30 mins per day)

Pupils will have reading homework Monday to Thursday evenings each week.

Spellings and tables will be sent home to revise Monday—Thursday. Children encouraged to learn spellings in a way that suits them – written out in book, verbally with parents etc.

They will be learning their tricky words continuously as required.

There is formal homework on Wednesday. Formal homework to be handed in by the following Monday.

Learning Log – Children will have a learning log / creative homework to complete once a fortnight based on their topic. Children will have 2 weeks to complete this type of homework.

Primary 4 (Max 40 mins per day)

Pupils will have reading homework Monday to Thursday evenings each week.

Spellings and tables will be sent home to revise Monday—Thursday. Children encouraged to learn spellings in a way that suits them – written out in book, verbally with parents etc.

There are 2 formal homeworks per week for literacy or numeracy both given out on a Wednesday. All formal homeworks to be handed in by the following Monday.

Learning Log – Children will have a learning log / creative homework to complete once a fortnight based on their topic. Children will have 2 weeks to complete this type of homework.

Primary 5 (Max 45 mins per day)

Pupils will have reading homework Monday to Thursday evenings each week.

Spellings and tables will be sent home to revise Monday—Thursday. Children encouraged to learn spellings in a way that suits them – written out in book, verbally with parents etc.

There are 2 formal homeworks per week for literacy or numeracy both given out on a Wednesday. All formal homeworks to be handed in by the following Monday.

Learning Log – Children will have a learning log / creative homework to complete once a fortnight based on their topic. Children will have 2 weeks to complete this type of homework.

Primary 6 (Max 45 mins per day)

Pupils will have reading homework Monday to Thursday evenings each week.

Spellings and tables will be sent home to revise Monday—Thursday. Children encouraged to learn spellings in a way that suits them – written out in book, verbally with parents etc.

There are 2 formal homeworks per week for literacy or numeracy both given out on a Wednesday. All formal homeworks to be handed in by the following Monday.

Learning Log – Children will have a learning log / creative homework to complete once a fortnight based on their topic. Children will have 2 weeks to complete this type of homework.

In preparation for AQE, children will not be given written Literacy and Numeracy homework during times when AQE papers are being sent home.

For children not completing AQE, homeworks will continue as normal.

Primary 7 (Max 45 mins per day)

Pupils will have reading homework Monday to Thursday evenings each week.

Spellings and tables will be sent home to revise Monday—Thursday. Children encouraged to learn spellings in a way that suits them – written out in book, verbally with parents etc.

There are 2 formal homeworks per week for literacy or numeracy both given out on a Wednesday. All formal homeworks to be handed in by the following Monday.

Learning Log – Children will have a learning log / creative homework to complete once a fortnight based on their topic. Children will have 2 weeks to complete this type of homework.

In preparation for AQE, children will not be given formal Literacy and Numeracy homework during times when AQE papers are being sent home. Spelling and Reading will also stop for children in Primary 7 working towards their AQE at a time when the class teachers feels it is appropriate.

For children not completing AQE, homeworks will continue as normal.

As a parent we would ask that you work alongside your child for encouragement and support but that you foster independence at every opportunity.

We also invite parents to:

- encourage their children to read widely and frequently and take them to the library
- encourage their children to participate in a variety of sports and leisure activities
- discuss the school day with their child.

Differentiation

Consideration must be given to the child's ability when homework is set. Children with special needs must be given work that takes into account their individual needs and targets. Children who are more able should be given either open-ended tasks or ones that are more challenging than those given to the rest of the class.

What is FORMAL homework?

Formal homework is a set task aside from spellings, reading and mental maths. This may be written literacy and numeracy homeworks. In some cases, no written work may be needed as part of the task set. Instead it is acceptable to ask children to find out information, to watch a particular programme or complete some other speaking and listening activities.

Equal opportunities

It is important to keep in mind the balance of tasks you set over the term and year. Try to ensure that:

- tasks set require different skills, e.g. speaking and listening as well as reading and writing
- tasks are not only literacy and numeracy based but represent a balance across the curriculum

- tasks target the interests of both boys and girls over a period of time
- tasks set allow for the different resources pupils have at home and do not mean that some will be unable to complete them – if this is the case alternative arrangements should be made.

What we expect from teachers

We expect teachers to follow this homework policy and speak to a senior member of staff if they have any concerns about its implementation.

All formal homework books must be checked at least once a week and appropriate responses made to any comments from parents.

We expect teachers to convey a positive approach to homework setting and ensure that constructive feedback is given to help pupils progress.

Year groups must include an outline of homework expectations in their introductory letter / meeting in September.

What we expect from pupils

We expect pupils to do their best to complete any homework set.

We expect pupils to read and reflect on any feedback given.

We expect pupils to ask the teacher if there is any aspect of their homework they do not understand.

We expect pupils to be responsible for their home-link book.

What we expect from parents

It is important that parents understand their role in supporting children with homework. School Planners are used to communicate with parents.

Contact with parents about homework should reinforce our view that homework is a positive learning opportunity and not a cause of anxiety.

We ask that parents:

- provide a suitable space where children can study, write and read without interruption
- encourage good working habits and routines around the completion of homework
- let us know if any problems emerge with the completion of homework

Feedback to children

Homework is marked every week and on occasions an extended comment will be made. Children should be given time to read comments and respond themselves.

It is the responsibility to the school to ensure that homeworks are set. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that homework is completed. School staff will not chase late homeworks.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the senior leadership team in consultation with the school community.

Addendum To Homework Policy In Light Of Covid-19

The full policy reflects our school's commitment to Homework, however, in light of Covid-19, the following changes are required and are outlined in this addendum:

- 1) Homework will be sent home as outlined in this policy, however, formal homeworks will not be sent back into school. This is in line with the Department of Education, New School Day Guidance to assist in limiting the amount of items that travel from home to school and back again.
- 2) Our Learning Logs will not take place as homework while Covid-19 restrictions are in place.
- 3) In more complex homework, answers will either be sent home or uploaded onto the school website to assist parents in the marking of homework.
- 4) Parents are always welcome to make contact with school to speak with the class teacher if a child has found an aspect of homework difficult and the class teacher will spend time with the child in school to provide additional support when required.