

## HOMework POLICY STATEMENT

The school sees the following as the main purposes of homework:

- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, especially in numeracy and literacy.
- Extending school learning, for example through additional reading.
- Exploiting resources for learning of all kinds in the home situation.
- Fostering the development in the pupils of the confidence and self-discipline needed for independent study.
- These apply to all children, regardless of ability.

The homework policy will be seen as part of the school's overall learning and assessment strategy.

The homework tasks will be planned and structured to support progression in learning as part of the school's schemes of work.

There will be consistent practice across the school in setting, managing an assessing homework.

Homework will be seen as a partnership between home and school, and parents and carers will be asked to enter into a written agreement in support of the homework policy.

Parents and carers will be given very clear guidelines about expectations for themselves and their pupils, and will be informed on a regular basis as to what needs to be done.

Opportunities will be given to parents and carers for regular feedback regarding the homework scheme.

The school's homework policy will be reviewed annually in consultation with parents/carers.

## **HOMEWORK - GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The attached homework policy has been formulated in accordance with DFEE guidelines published in November 1998. Although there is no statutory requirement for primary school children to do homework, school homework schemes will form part of future OFSTED inspections.

### **WHAT TASKS WILL BE SET FOR HOMEWORK?**

The exact nature of the tasks will be decided by each class teacher. Many of them will already have been happening since your child began school. Traditional tasks such as hearing your child read, supporting the learning of spellings and times tables, playing word and number games will still form a vital part of work done at home, especially in Key Stage 1. Though written tasks will be set more frequently higher up the school, many homework activities could be practical or observational, such as:-

- Investigating which things in the home use electricity.
- Interviewing a relative on a particular topic.
- Watching/helping an adult perform a task such as making a cake.
- Accompanying an adult to the shops and making observations about prices, weights etc.
- Scientific observations e.g growth of a plant, behaviour of an animal, phases of the Moon.
- Research using the library, resources at home, home computer etc.
- Listening to music.
- Investigating information found on food packets.

(To name but a few!)

## HOW LONG WILL MY CHILD HAVE TO SPEND ON HOMEWORK?

The amount of homework set by staff will broadly follow government guidelines and will increase with the child's progression through school. However, it is our intention to build a certain amount of flexibility into the system in order that children's participation in out-of-school activities such as sport, music, Cubs etc. will not be affected, since these form a vital part of the children's personal and social development. Therefore, while some sort of reading activity may be set daily, other tasks may be set weekly, twice weekly or even over a half term, dependent on the programme of work for each particular year group.

The **quality** of the homework is more important than the amount. As a very rough guide, **weekly** times might be:-

Reception: Approximately 1 hour.

Years 1 and 2: Up to 2 hours.

Years 3 and 4: Up to 3 hours.

Years 5 and 6: Up to 4 hours.

## WHAT ARE MY ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PARENT?

These may be summarised as follows:-

- To provide a suitably quiet environment for the child to do the homework, either alone or with an adult, where distractions are at a minimum. If this is not always possible at home, then to help the pupil attend other suitable places, such as the local library.
- To make it clear to the child/children that you as a parent value homework and support the school in its efforts to aid and extend their learning.
- To work alongside with and help children with their tasks where appropriate, with support and guidance from school.
- To check **on a daily basis** what has been set, and to **sign** in the designated place to confirm that the homework has been completed.
- To listen to your child read **on a daily basis**, questioning their understanding of the text, and making a note of each reading session in the reading record provided by the school.
- To praise and encourage children when they have finished their tasks.

- To ensure that reading records, homework diaries, books and any other materials sent home from school are looked after and kept in good condition.

### **WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL CONFIDENT THAT I AM ABLE TO HELP MY CHILD?**

Staff are sympathetic to parents' concerns and will make clear the role of the parent when tasks are set. In case of any difficulties, opportunities will be provided for parents to express their concerns and give feedback as to how the homework programme is progressing, especially in the early stages. The role of the parent is as facilitator not teacher!