



Home Learning / Homework Policy

Last Updated – September 2018

Our Vision

Love

We love and nurture every individual.

Learn

We are passionate about inspiring learning.

Thrive

We value the uniqueness of each individual's achievements.

Our approach to homework detailed in the policy and associated documents clearly supports the achievement of our vision. It does this through encouraging children to pursue and develop a love of learning, provide opportunities for children to be individually nurtured valuing their interests and skills. There is a clear and strong focus on using homework to further inspire learning and build children's ability to self-direct.

Introduction

1.1 Homework is any learning outside the normal school day that contributes to children's learning in response to guidance from the school. We view this as home learning as our approach and practices go beyond task or work completion. We recognise however most families are familiar with the term homework and therefore continue to make use of the term. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, anyone who spends time reading to, listening to a child read or simply talking to a child about learning is helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

2.1 Homework can add much to a child's development as well as prepare them for the next stage of their education. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit therefore from the mutual support of parents, family members and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. We see homework as a way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the central aims of our schools is for children to develop as independent, self-directed and self-motivated learners. We believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire and develop the skill of independent learning.

2.2 Homework plays a role in helping children progress. We also acknowledge the vital 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 wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than school, and we believe they develop their skills and interests to the full when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school. We also acknowledge that family life can be incredibly busy and families will do huge amounts to provide rich learning experiences via family activities. We ask parents to support the policy and encourage children to build good learning habits in particular being self-motivated.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of homework are:
- to enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
 - to help children develop the skills of becoming independent learners;
 - develop self-motivation & self-direction
 - to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
 - to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
 - to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
 - to help children develop good learning habits for the future.

4 Homework Practices

- 4.1** Homework is closely linked with the curriculum learning for each term with children encouraged to develop their curriculum learning beyond school. At the start of each term children and their families receive a learning newsletter which outlines the learning in each subject for the term ahead. Children and their families can use this information to develop their learning at home.

There are no formal weekly or termly set tasks as these can easily become a 'tick 'list' to complete and can stifle children's opportunity to self-direct. A strong emphasis on regular reading is made. Weekly learning of facts such as spelling lists and number facts are not part of our approach as there is little evidence this embeds learning and understanding. As part of the termly curriculum learning overview children and their families will be signposted to a variety of resources should they wish their child to undertake weekly written homework tasks. Children in Year Six will receive revision guides to support them in being prepared for their end of Key Stage Assessments that are taken by all children nationally in May. Class teachers will provide information at the appropriate point of the academic year to explain to parents how to make use of these guides and workbooks and how often children should be completing work at home in relation to them.

5 Homework as an intervention

- 5.1** There is some evidence that when homework is used as a short and focused intervention it can be effective in improving students' attainment particularly in primary pupils. At the discretion of the class teacher, SENDCO or support staff short and focused periods of personalised homework may be provided to individual students. Where this is the case the provision will be discussed with parents in advance.

6 Children with special educational needs (SEND)

- 6.1** Our approaches to homework will be adapted and personalised further where needed to ensure we meet the needs of children with SEND

7 The role of parents

- 7.1** Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and 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. Parents can find out about topics and themes being studied through the termly learning curriculum learning overview and Marvellous ME learning updates.
- 7.2** If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should in the first instance contact the Head teacher.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1** It is the responsibility of our Head teacher to set and then monitor the school homework policy. Monitoring will take place in conjunction with support from members of the governing body and also the schools external advisors such as the Local Authority School Improvement Advisor (SIA). Our governing body may request from our head teacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

Associated Documents

- Curriculum Learning Overview template and homework approach explanations. These to be updated and sent out at the start of each full term.

