



Homework policy

SUMMER 2017

Rationale

Homework helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills, and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education and ensure that their children develop a good attitude towards homework.

Principles

Church Hill Middle School regards homework as:

- an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other learning;
- important to establish early on and develop progressively across the key stages, supporting the transition to high school;
- contributing to the challenge of raising attainment, and the positive work ethos in the school;
- a way of consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths
- exploiting resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
- extending school learning, for example through additional reading; and encouraging pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school;
- a method by which parents and carers work closely in partnership with the school in the education of the children, assisting in many ways, for example, helping their children at home, monitoring homework, providing encouragement, etc;

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding about expectations of both themselves and the pupil;

- improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils;
- extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision;
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs;

Homework will be:

- appropriate to the needs of individuals;
- marked in writing where appropriate and feedback will be given to pupils
- monitored and reviewed at regular periods in consultation with pupils and parents
- praised and acknowledged by the staff
- planned for as part of the current learning sequences in school
- supported by the use of a homework book and home/school reading diary recorded in by children, school staff, parents and carers
- set with a manageable time scale in which to complete the homework (i.e. more than one day's notice) and a date by which the homework should be completed.

Homework throughout the school:

Reading

We know that regular reading and sharing books together is vital for children to be able to achieve in all other areas of learning. All children should either read to their parents or carers, or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 20 to 30 minutes a day. This may be done in the context of homework, for example a pupil reading his/her school reading book to a parent or reading a reference book for a history project.

Spelling

In Key Stage 2 all children will have weekly spellings to practise at home, (sent home on a Friday) and teachers will feedback to pupil's their success in spelling these words by the following Friday. Any words which children are not yet secure with, will be added to their personal spelling list to give them further time to consolidate. Spellings will be selected from the statutory spelling lists and others will be personal to the individual child. In Key Stage 3 pupils will be required to record spellings they need to learn in their planner (identified through marking and feedback) and learn key subject specific terminology as an ongoing part of their curriculum studies.

Maths

It is expected that children will know all multiplication and related division facts for the times tables up to 12 x 12 by the time they leave year 4. Therefore children need daily practice of counting in different multiples and learning times tables facts by heart as reinforcement of this learning in Year 5 and 6. Class teachers will offer guidance on which times table is appropriate for each individual. Other Maths skills and reasoning homeworks will be set as appropriate by the class teacher. At Key Stage 3 there will be regular Maths homework to reinforce key learning.

Curricular Targets

In Key stage 2 curricular targets for English and Maths are developed half termly and these support the learning in school. These are sent home at the start of each half term and the target is set dependent on every child's individual needs. We expect children to practise these at least three times a week and suggestions for how parents can support at home, will be noted next to the targets. Feedback to pupils will be ongoing and teacher assessments of achieving the targets will take place at the end of the half term.

Attitudes to Homework

It is important that children should be in the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to study on their own. By the time children reach Year 8 their homework programme should cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content, with a regular weekly schedule which they take responsibility for completing independently. This approach will benefit their learning and also ensure that, in relation to homework as much as to other aspects, their transition to High School is as smooth as possible.

Homework Space

In order for children to get the most out of their homework, they will need a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which to complete it. For younger children this should be together with an adult and as they get older, with the support of an adult at hand, should they need. If children are finding it difficult to complete homework at home, a suitable space can be found at school for pupil's to complete any work during break or lunch times.

Guide to the Length of Time to be Spent on Homework:

Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

Pupils should spend approximately 30-40 minutes a day on homework.

As children move into upper Key Stage Two, they are expected to take increasing responsibility themselves for the completion of their homework. This should include daily reading, which should be recorded in their reading diary (within their planner) either by an adult or themselves. Other activities would include spellings, times tables, curricular target practice and work towards homework projects.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

Pupils should spend approximately 50- 60 minutes a day on homework.

In Key Stage 3 pupils should be responsible for recording, completing and submitting homework independently at all times. This should include daily reading, which should be recorded in their planner either by an adult or themselves. Other activities would include spellings, times tables, work on individual targets, subject specific homework and work towards homework projects.

Special Educational Needs

Some children may benefit from very specific tasks, separate from the homework set for other children in the class. However, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible. Appropriate homework will be set with the close co-ordination of class teachers, special needs co-ordinator, parents and any outside agencies involved. Tasks will:

- have a very clear focus and time-guideline;
- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed;
- help develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- be varied and not purely written assignments;
- be manageable for teachers and parents.