

Homework Policy

Most pupils of primary age are expected to do homework but we believe that this should not exceed 30 minutes per evening and should consist of a variety of interesting activities which stimulate independent learning. For all-round development and good health children must also be encouraged to participate in sports and hobbies and get sufficient sleep.

The aims of homework

- To encourage home-school liaison by involving school, children and parents in creating a learning environment at home as well as at school.
- To help consolidate knowledge, skills, concepts and attitudes related to the school curriculum.
- To prepare children for the next phase of education.

What and How?

The content and amount of homework depends a great deal on the child's age and ability and even younger children are expected to bring books home regularly. We regard many practical activities carried out at home to be valuable 'homework' such as learning to tell the time, the days of the week and months of the year, cooking, playing board games, shopping, handling money and watching the news. At the beginning of each term parents receive a letter from their child's class teacher, outlining the term's topics and indicating related homework to be completed during the term. These may consist of:

Completing certain tasks started in school
Reading, learning spellings, tables, songs, etc.
Designing and preparing.
Researching.
Problem solving, thinking exercises.

Homework is differentiated, relevant and interesting. It should never be a mundane task, done simply for the sake of doing homework. It may include such things as interviewing parents and grandparents in relation to a history topic, observing the phases of the moon or birds in the garden for a science related topic, observational drawing, and learning places on a map. etc.

All children have a home-school liaison book mainly for recording books read but also to allow parents and teachers to communicate. Parents should look in the book regularly for messages from their child's teacher and take note of whatever is written there.

Mathematics homework may be completing challenges on the Mathletics on-line website.

When and Where?

This depends very much on what the homework is. It would be helpful if written work could be carried out at a table. To make reading an enjoyable activity it may be more successful if you are both sitting in a comfortable chair.

There is a lunchtime homework club which allows us to support children who are not receiving adequate support or opportunity to complete their 'homework' at home. We refer children to this club with reluctance as it only fulfils one of the aims – to help consolidate learning. A child who routinely uses

homework club is missing out on the home-school liaison and on preparation for a more independent phase of school life.

If parents have to take an unavoidable holiday during term times our policy is not to give out extra work. We would suggest that parents should encourage their children to keep a scrap book of postcards, timetables, tickets, maps, tourist information and a daily diary which they can share with their friends once they return to school.

Approved at CPW Committee: October 2016

Date for next review: October 2019