



# Bolton Primary School



## Homework Policy

### 1 Introduction

1.1 Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to the students' learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities initiated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are engaging in homework.

### 2 Rationale for homework

2.1 Homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework can be one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

2.2 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

### 3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning and inform parents about current learning;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

### 4 Types of homework

4.1 We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1, we give children reading books to take home or access to e-books to read with their parents or carers. We give guidance to parents and carers on achieving the maximum benefit spent reading with their child. In EYFS, we give children a weekly Maths home learning activity. We also sometimes Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings as part of their homework and Google Classroom activities related to the current teaching and learning in Maths and English. We also include a weekly well-being activity.

Additionally, there are Foundation homework tasks to complete, relating to current topics, on the website under Children KS1 Homework/Things to do at Home, however, these are not compulsory.

- 4.2 At Key Stage 2, we continue to give children the sort of homework activities that complement their learning in school, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. Through the Google Classroom platform, we set reading tasks, spelling practice, grammar and punctuation activities and the learning of tables. We include PHSE/ citizenship themes and occasionally research activities. In Year 6, we also set additional homework in the spring term, as a means of helping the children to prepare for SATs in May. This is to ensure that our pupils are familiar with the format and question types. We also set multiplication check challenges to prepare our Y4 pupils for the MTC tests in June. Children are often asked to self-mark and check their homework answers so that they can check whether they are on track and succeeding. KS2 children are expected to read three times per week (for a minimum of 20 minutes) and make a comment in their logs.

## **5 Timing of homework**

- 5.1 We recommend that smaller chunks of time spent on homework tasks are of greater benefit than trying to complete all the homework in one session. The amount of time spent on homework should increase as the child matures and develops stamina. There is a table on our website (included on the back page here) that suggests how much time should be spent on different homework activities. Homework is set on each Friday and due in on the following Thursday which gives children and families 6 days and includes a weekend. This routine helps our pupils and families to organise and manage their time.

## **6 Inclusion and homework**

- 6.1 We set homework for **all** children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that every child can respond and succeed. We also clearly state that no child should spend more than, for example, thirty minutes on a task (and this differs with age) **unless they would like to**. Therefore, it is acceptable for a child to complete only three out of five questions, if it has taken them longer. We encourage parents and pupils to send us a Google Classroom message, if they have found something particularly challenging and then we can identify children for extra support. Parents/ carers can fill a form to loan a school iPad on a Friday at 3.30 pm until Monday at 9 am. This is to ensure that all children have access to the IT that is required to carry out and complete homework. We have a 'no printing policy' when it comes to homework. Teachers will always ensure that it is not necessary to print any attached worksheets and if a hard copy of the sheet is required then teachers will print them for their students. All children are provided with 'homework books.' If new books are needed parents and children are encouraged to ask for more copies.

## **7. Homework Club**

- 7.1 The school provides two weekly homework club sessions that children can attend. Children are encouraged to use the club for any assigned homework that they are

finding challenging and in order to receive adult help or from a peer. They can also use the session to access any IT or to read their book if they need to add to their total of reading sessions. Teachers can also ask children to attend that have not completed their tasks on Friday or the reading requirement. It is our aim that Homework club is a supportive and positive experience. **It is our belief that children are significantly disadvantaged if they regularly do not complete homework.** We aim to make up for this disadvantage by providing the club. Unfortunately, not all homework gets completed in the half-hourly homework club sessions, but it is better than not doing it at all. The adults overseeing the club will prioritise the tasks that students undertake.

## **8 The role of parents and carers**

- 8.1 Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set, and we expect them to show interest in their child's learning and education. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to have access to the internet if appropriate, by discussing the work that their child is doing and checking that all sections have been completed to a good standard. We do understand that there will occasionally be busy times and periods for families where homework may not get done. However, if there is an inadequate response over a significant period, we will contact families and ask how we can support them to engage in their child's homework.
- 8.3 If parents and carers have any questions about the homework set, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher or send a message through Google Classroom. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the governing body.

## **9 Use of ICT**

- 9.1 The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. When children are asked to research information, they will be reminded to write information expressed in their own words (paraphrasing) rather than copy directly as this encourages greater understanding.
- 9.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Teachers will also identify suitable websites where possible. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

## **10 Monitoring and Review**

- 10.1 It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Parents and carers complete a questionnaire each year, and also during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent.

10.2 This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

**Reviewed: Autumn 2024**

**Next review date: Autumn 2026**

### Homework Expectations for Each Class (also on the website)

#### Homework Class 1 Reception

1. Maths (15 mins)
2. Reading (3 x 15 mins) (max 1 hr per week)

#### Homework Class 1 Y1/2

1. Maths (15 mins)
2. English task Spelling (up to 20 mins)
3. Reading (3 x 15 mins)
4. Lexia - (30 mins approx)
5. Well-being/ citizenship (10 mins) (max 2 hrs per week)

#### Homework Class 2 Y3/4

1. Maths (20 mins)
2. English task - Writing/ Grammar/Punctuation/ Spelling (up to 30 mins)
3. Reading (3 x 20 mins)
4. Lexia - (30 mins approx.)
5. Well-being/ citizenship (20 mins) (max 2.2 hrs per week)

#### Homework Class 3 Y5/6

1. Maths (30 mins)
2. Short - Grammar or punctuation - writing task (30 mins)
3. Reading (3 x 30 mins)
4. Well-being/ citizenship? (30 mins) (max 3 hrs per week)
5. Lexia - optional