

Devonshire Road Primary School

Homework Policy



Teachers are to:

'...encourage pupils to take a responsible and conscientious attitude to their own work and study...' (p.10)

'...set homework and plan other out of class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired...' (p.11)

Department For Education (2013) Teachers' Standards: Guidance for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies

Background

Consultations with parents and carers have shown that homework is something that can be beneficial for parents, and it is 'an important part of primary school life'. After the COVID pandemic, it is vital that children feel supported in order to help close the gap of 'lost learning', and homework can play a role in doing this.

However, we do understand that many families have commitments to other activities outside of school, including religious observance, sports activities, etc., and need time to unwind and relax. We understand that when a child has worked for a full day in school, he/she may not respond positively to having large amounts of homework.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that homework can have a positive impact on academic progress (+2 months in comparison to having no homework). As a result, the following policy sets out how we use homework to help improve every child's academic achievement whilst being sensitive to the needs of our school community.

Our school believes that homework is essential in reinforcing and extending the teaching and learning that occurs during the day. Homework encourages and supports parental/carer involvement in children's learning. It can also help to develop a child's independence and resilience and provide that one-to-one support from parents/carers which can accelerate learning and potential.

Our aims of the homework policy are to:

- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school;
- Ensure progression towards independence and develop resilience;
- Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account;
- Ensure that parents/carers understand our expectations for homework;
- Consolidate learning into long-term memory;
- Ensure homework is relevant and complementary to classwork;
- Further develop opportunities for parents/carers, children and the school to work in partnership;
- Prepare Y6 children for the secondary phase of education.

The following times are an age-appropriate guide to how long a child should spend on their homework over a week. However, children should never be distressed by the amount of homework, and we encourage parent/carers and children to discuss any problems they are having with their teacher.

KS1	Recommended time per week
Reading	15 mins (3x per week)
Numbots (number bonds on Numbots app)	15 mins
Spellings (on Spelling Shed)	15 mins
Maths/English (in homework book)	20 mins

Key Stage One – 1.5 hrs approx. per week

KS2	Recommended time per week
Reading	20 mins (3x per week)
Times Tables (on TTRockstars)	30 mins
Spellings (on Spelling Shed)	30 mins
Maths/English (in homework book)	30 mins

Key Stage Two 2-2.5 hrs approx. per week

Reading:

Reading is the most important aspect of homework and this should be the priority. This should be completed for 20-30 minutes, at least three times a week. Supporting a child with their reading will look very different for individual children and across the different year groups. We discuss how to help your child with their reading at each “Meet the teacher” session in September and further guidance is available from class teachers if needed.

Times Tables:

We believe that times tables are essential to unlock many other aspects of Maths. They allow children to spot patterns, and helps to reduce the strain on the working memory; this will then help children to learn new concepts more quickly.

We recommend practising times tables as often as possible, and have purchased individual log-ins for TTRockstars to help this to be completed independently.

Spellings:

Children are expected to learn to spell between ten and twelve words and may be asked to write the words in a sentence as an extension for our older children. Children will be asked to complete online spelling activities using Spelling Shed, which is an online game to help children access their spellings independently.

Maths/English:

Activities here will be set in-line with the work that children have been doing in their classroom setting throughout the week. Research shows that by revisiting learning regularly, it will help to consolidate the children’s learning to their long-term memory, and help them to continue making good progress in their learning in school.

Each week, children will receive Maths or English worksheets to be completed and brought back in to school.

Year 6:

To help our children make the transition for life at Secondary School, our Y6 children may be given additional homework on websites such as LBQ, and may be given weekly Maths and English homework, as expected in Year 7.

Topic-based Homework

On some occasions, classes may set some topic-based homework around a theme of a specific event in school, or, in response to a national week. Some examples could include: British Science Week, Enterprise Event, National Online Safety Day, etc. These pieces of homework may be more open-ended, creative tasks where children can explore the theme through a project.

Additional/Extra Homework

Sometimes, additional homework may be provided to certain individuals to help them close the gap with their peers. This is done in a supportive way, and will be specific to what the children need. Staff will have conversations with the parents/carers of the individual children in order to explain the process behind this extra homework that is being set. If parents/carers are concerned about the progress that their child is making, they may also ask their class teacher for additional homework to be set.

Roles and Responsibilities

The child's role:

- To ensure that all information regarding homework is presented to a parent/carer;
- To complete the homework within the allocated time;
- To complete the homework to the same standard as work completed in school;
- To return homework meeting the deadlines set;
- To share their views about homework with our School Council.

The parent/carer's role:

- To ask their child about homework that has been set;
- To support their child with organising the homework throughout the week;
- To encourage and support their child when completing homework;
- To encourage children to return their homework to school, meeting the deadlines set.

The teacher's role:

- To set activities that will support and enhance learning in class;
- To ensure that the homework meets the needs of the child;
- To acknowledge the homework in a timely manner;
- To address the misconceptions that arise from homework that has been returned;
- To inform parents/carers how well their child is doing parents/carers evenings, etc.

The Governor's role:

To consult with Parent Governors and School Council when reviewing our homework policy annually.

When homework has not been completed:

Teachers will encourage children to complete all homework and praise or reward children who consistently complete their homework on time.

In cases where homework is not completed, we ask parents/carers to let us know if there has been limited time, perhaps owing to illness or attending sports competitions in the evenings. If a child is finding the homework difficult, we ask parents/carers to contact teachers for guidance and support.

Remote/Home Learning due to COVID-19:

If your child/children need to isolate for any reason due to COVID-19, and are following Public Health advice, your children will be required to complete some home learning (unless they are too unwell to do so).

Weekly tasks will be set by class teachers, and these will formulate part of the remote learning offer. This will be done through interactive timetables, which will be sent home in order for your child to continue practising the basic skills of SPAG, Reading, Writing, Maths and Science.

There will be a member of staff available to support you via email or telephone with the tasks that have been set, so please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school.

For more information, please see our 'Remote Education Guidance'.