



**HARPER BELL
ADVENTIST
SCHOOL**

Homework Policy

Approved by Governing Board, 7th October 2025. Review Date: October 2027

At Harper Bell SDA School, we are committed to building strong home/school links. Through our carefully designed, curriculum linked Homework Grids, we offer children and families to the opportunity to enrich the learning that takes place in school. We firmly believe that homework should allow children to share themes, ideas and curriculum content with their parents or carers in order to develop a shared understanding and enjoyment of what is taught in school.

In this policy, homework refers to any work or activity which children are asked to do outside of lesson time, usually with parents or carers.

Aims and objectives

Through our policy we aim to:

- Encourage a positive attitude to learning
- Consolidate and extend learning experiences and raise attainment
- Motivate learners
- Promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- Foster an interest and enjoyment of all elements of the Downfield Curriculum
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility preparing year 6 learners for secondary transfer

Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

Homework Grids

Pupils from Reception to Year 6 are issued with a half termly homework grid. These grids contain a combination of *topic/project* based and *Key Skills* tasks. Children and families are encouraged to select the tasks they would like to complete and it is suggested that families support the process by providing materials and experiences to enhance outcomes. However, where pupils and families do not have access to materials, these can be provided or alternative tasks and activities can be selected

from the grid. Each grid provides a wide range of choice with some activities requiring no materials at all.

All pupils will be given their homework grids on the first Friday of every half term. The tasks will be explained and requirements / suggestions reiterated. Children and families will then be able to access the grids on the school website if required. Weekly tasks are to be submitted on Wednesdays and books will be reissued on Fridays.

Submission of digital homework

Homework is to be submitted on or by Wednesday of each week. Families of pupils producing work using digital resources can email work to homework@hbsda.bham.sch.uk. Please use your child's name and class as the email header e.g. Joe Bloggs, year 2.

Times tables and spellings

Activities which encourage children to practise and refine their skills in maths fluency and core literacy capabilities are included within the grids. These are referred to as **Key Skills Tasks**. The spellings are taken from the suggested word lists for each year group and feature high frequency or key words appropriate for the age of the children. The mathematics Key Skills Tasks will feature the appropriate times-tables and other key maths concepts which form the **fluency** element of the maths work for each year group.

Marking

Teachers and teaching assistants take responsibility for acknowledging homework tasks. This may be through written or verbal feedback. We aim to reward children for their efforts and achievements in homework tasks and appreciate all efforts made to complete them. Marking for homework will be a light touch mark.

Some tasks featured on the homework grids carry rewards in the form of house points. Particularly good examples of homework and points awarded, will be shared in celebration assemblies and in classes. Visits to the head and deputy headteacher are arranged for outstanding examples of effort and achievement in homework tasks – Homework Heroes certificates are issued. **Photographs are also added to the Homework Heroes page on the school website.**

Amount of homework

The amount of homework expected from all children in all phases, is dictated by the number of tasks required (one topic activity, ongoing Key Skills tasks per week and regular reading.) It will be for families and children to decide what they do to complete the tasks and therefore time scales will vary.

Inclusion and homework

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 all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework for pupils who are named on the register of special needs, adapted versions may be provided. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

For families who are unable to support their children with homework, opportunities are provided for children to complete tasks in school. **The Chapel/library is open every lunchtime for children who would rather complete their homework in school.** Practical equipment and resources are made available wherever possible.

The role of parents and carers

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 work alongside their children in choosing tasks to complete from the grids and more importantly, how they will go about completing them. 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. Homework should not be something children do in isolation.

Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, visiting relevant attractions /sites/ areas of interest and by discussing the work that their child is undertaking. Practical or project based ideas are welcomed and we enjoy the variety of work that this produces.

Ideally, **parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence.** We ask parents and carers to **sign their child's Reading Record** to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them on **at least three occasions during each week.**

The tasks set out on our homework grids are designed to provide opportunities for families to engage with the learning that takes place in school. They also aim to extend children's knowledge and skills in areas of the curriculum they are familiar and comfortable with. These tasks are purposeful and relevant. It is expected that families support the school and their children in completing these tasks regularly and to a good standard.

Rewards and praise

Examples of exceptional homework including exceptional effort in homework, are celebrated in a range of ways. This might be:

- in a celebration assembly
- by visiting the headteacher and deputy headteacher for a *Homework Hero* certificate
- by having their work shown on the school website

If parents and carers have any 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 in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the Deputy Head teacher in the first instance and should concerns still remain, the Headteacher.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our homework policy is reviewed in consultation with teaching staff.