

Homework Policy



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Park Community Academy

Homework Policy Document

"We grow together, we learn together, we will achieve our best together."

HOMEWORK refers to any work/activity children are asked by the school to do outside of school time, either on their own or with parents/carers.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK IS TO: -

- Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers and keeping them informed about the work children are doing.
- Consolidate and reinforce knowledge, skills and understanding particularly in Life Skills, speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy.
- Use resources and tasks at home to promote learning in all kinds of ways.
- Extend school learning through additional reading, research and shared practical experiences.
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline to take some responsibility for their own learning.
- Develop pupil's self esteem.

THE TYPE AND AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK:

- Not all homework needs to be written work which has to be marked.
- Homework will take different forms and be for different lengths of time for pupils of different ages and individual needs.
- The main focus of homework at Park Community Academy will be on Life Skills in preparation for adulthood, Speaking and Listening, Literacy (with the main focus on Phonics and Reading) and Numeracy.

- Other subjects may be added to the programme as children move up through the school.

Online homework activities

Park Community Academy subscribes to a number of online programmes which can be accessed from home by the pupils. These include Education City, Oxford Owl, SUM Dog maths and White Rose Maths. Where these programmes are appropriate for the pupils they are provided with a personal login. This information is sent home to parents and carers at the start of each new academic year. Prompts and reminders are sent to parents throughout the year.

Parents/carers will also be encouraged to follow the class blog and whole school and Department Twitter Posts.

Incentives and rewards are provided to encourage homework to be completed by way of Dojo points and certificates/prizes which are given out in assembly.

Early Years Foundation Stage and Lower Primary

In the early years, parental involvement has a significant impact on children's cognitive development. To support this, homework is used as a valuable link that enables parents/carers and teachers to work together to support children's development. Homework is also seen as part of a home/school liaison opportunity where teachers and parents/carers discuss the needs of the 'whole child'

Homework in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will consist of;

- opportunities for developing speaking and listening skills
- working towards independence when participating in everyday tasks and routines;
- looking at books and reading with parents/carers, providing opportunities for children to talk about stories through discussion, questions and answers.

The child and parents/carers might work at home on a variety of activities suggested by the teacher – the emphasis being on enjoyment and the desire to take part.

Termly curriculum forecasts

These are sent home to inform parents/carers of the key themes and topics being taught during the term.

Homework ideas - can also be taken from the 'homework' section at the back of the booklet that is given to parents during the home school agreement meeting.

'Reasons to Talk' books -These will have photos and a brief description of the activities the children have been doing over the week. There will be space available for parents to write comments about their child's learning within the home. New work is included each week and these books are sent home daily.

Real story books, phonics activities and key word speaking and listening resources -

Will be provided throughout different times of the year.

Class Blog and Twitter Posts

Parents/carers will also be encouraged to follow the class blog each week and discuss the photographs and learning activities of the class with their child.

Within the Lower Primary, any parent/carers comments made in the homework books will be used by the class teacher when collating evidence to complete the Key Stage Assessments

Upper Primary

The emphasis for homework in the Upper Primary department will be on the development of language, literacy and numeracy skills. It is also provided to help the children to develop a sense of responsibility; to look after their homework, to remember to complete it and to bring it back to school.

Reading practice and listening to others read will continue to be essential right through the Primary department, with reading books sent home most nights. Pupils will receive a reading book that is matched to their phonics ability for practicing reading at home. They will also receive a sharing book where the emphasis is not for them to read the book independently but for them to share it with others at home, developing their ability to listen, understand and respond to text. In order to further support pupils' reading skills, they will receive a piece of phonics homework each week. This will provide opportunity for pupils to practice the letter sounds they have been learning in school and will be provided electronically or in paper format in their homework books.

Pupils will also be provided with maths homework each week, which they can access electronically via SumDog and Education City. The weekly maths and phonics homework provided can be completed by pupils with very little adult support.

In addition, each class will send home a range of cross-curricular homework activities on a termly basis. These will be practical activities linked to the topic and learning being covered in class over the duration of the term and may require some adult support for pupils to complete. Parents and carers can request additional support with these homework activities from their child's class teacher. Termly curriculum forecasts will also be sent home to inform parents/carers of the key themes and topics being taught during the term.

A variety of incentives are offered to encourage children to complete and return homework, such as certificates, Dojo points and other rewards. Parents/carers will also be encouraged to follow the class blog and Twitter posts each week and discuss the photographs and learning activities of the class with their child.

Key Stage 3

The emphasis of homework will continue to be on Life Skills, in preparation for adulthood, speaking and listening, literacy (including Phonics and Reading) and numeracy.

Key stage 3 pupils are given one piece of literacy/spelling homework and a piece of maths homework each week, which may be provided electronically. In addition to this pupils will be set one piece of phonics/reading homework at an appropriate level to their age and stage. Pupils are allocated two reading books, one phonetically decodable book which will be linked to the stage they are working at in phonics, and a 'reading for pleasure' book, which they can read and share with parents and carers.

Staff encourage pupils to return their homework with simple rewards e.g. extra reward points and keep a record of pupils returning their homework.

Class teachers will be responsible for sending out a range of PfA skills activities each half term for pupils to attempt at home. Pupils may also be given extension work in other areas of the curriculum where suitable.

A termly curriculum forecast will be sent out so parents are aware of what their child is learning in each area of the curriculum. We encourage pupils to continue researching these topics at home.

Key Stage 3 pupils are also encouraged to practice their life skills in preparation for adulthood as and when the opportunity arises e.g. using money, making meals, baking and helping out around the home.

Parents/carers will also be encouraged to follow the class blog and Twitter posts on a regular basis and discuss the photographs and learning activities of the class with their child.

A variety of incentives are offered to encourage children to complete and return homework, such as certificates, Dojo points and other rewards.

Key Stage 4

The emphasis of homework will continue to be on life skills, speaking and listening, literacy (including Phonics and Reading) and numeracy, with the added element of preparation for adulthood.

Pupils in Key Stage 4 are set one piece of maths and English homework each week, in addition to this, they will also have homework to support their GCSE, BTEC and Entry Level coursework. This will predominantly take the form of individual research on their focus topics. Pupils will also be set reading homework, this will be appropriate to their reading stage and age. All pupils will be invited to choose their own *reading for pleasure* book and will also be set a reading task, this may be an appropriate reading scheme book or an independent reading comprehension task. All Pupils are also encouraged to use Oxford Owls and other reading apps to continue reading at home to further develop their confidence in reading.

Preparation for adulthood and life skills will also be a focus for homework to prepare our pupils for life after Park Community Academy. Pupils are encouraged to use their communication, money and time skills at all opportunities as well as practice their self care and independence skills.

Parents/carers will also be encouraged to follow the class blog and Twitter posts on a regular basis and discuss the photographs and learning activities of the class with their child.

Key Stage 5

Students in KS5 are provided with **additional work** outside of curriculum time to support their BTEC and AQA coursework. This will predominantly take the form of individual research on particular topics. All students will be invited to choose their own *reading for pleasure* book and will also be set a reading task. All KS5 students are invited to the cohort wide google classroom where a comprehension task, linked to the 'first news' document that is uploaded each week, is set for all. All students are also encouraged to use reading apps to continue reading at home to further develop their confidence.

Students in Key stage 5 are also given additional work for English and Maths on a three year rolling program that is split into levels of challenge and ability. Students are given the work each week or possibly as a year long booklet. Professional judgment will be the deciding factor in this as roll out will vary from class to class. There is also a life skills weekly challenge/focus. Students are encouraged to return their additional work and can collect points on their 'punch' card that they can then trade in at the tuck shop.

The main focus of additional work for our KS5 students is preparing them for life after PCA hence there is an audit on life skills directed and worked on through additional activities. Students are encouraged to use their money and time skills at all opportunities. Parents/Carers may also request additional work for their child. Students at KS5 use their tracker passports to identify and track their progress.

Parents/Carers will also be encouraged to follow the class blog Twitter posts on a regular basis and discuss the photographs and learning activities of the class with their child.

Students are encouraged to use the time out of school to purchase items from local shops, get about in Blackpool independently using local transport or walking to gain knowledge of their immediate home geography.

Lunchtime Computing Club

Pupils will also have the opportunity to have access to the ICT facilities in school time to enable them to access the online homework programmes. This can also support pupils who do not have access to ICT facilities at home.

After School Clubs

All pupils will have opportunities to practice and extend their skills, knowledge and experience through attendance at a variety of after school clubs.

HOW HOMEWORK WILL BE PLANNED AND CO-ORDINATED SO THAT DEMANDS ON PUPILS WILL BE BALANCED AND MANAGEABLE: -

- Homework should be easily administered. The activity may not always be written work. It may take a variety of forms which will require monitoring and follow-up.

- The Team Leaders and the class teacher will be responsible for ensuring the setting of regular patterns of homework.
- Teachers will need to be flexible in their approach and use discretion when dealing with individual pupils, recognising a pupil's personal needs in different circumstances.
- Pupils should be encouraged to maintain the high standard expected in school. Achievements and effort in homework will be rewarded in accordance with the school reward system. A homework bag, folder or plastic envelope may be used to keep books in good condition.
- Feedback from homework will always be given to pupils.

THE ROLE OF PARENT/CARERS IN SUPPORTING PUPILS: -

- Close liaison with parents/carers is important. Communication between home and school will be verbal and/or written
- The teacher may ask for the parents'/carers co-operation in helping with homework tasks.
- Parents/carers will be asked to sign the pupils reading record where appropriate and to comment if possible.
- Parents/carers are asked to support their child in looking after their school reading/homework book and returning it to school when completed. The school reserves the right to withdraw reading books or make a small charge if books are repeatedly lost. Parents will however be provided with a Bug Club password so that children can access online books from home.
- Homework will be discussed as part of the Home School agreement meeting held with the Children's Family Support Manager on admission. Homework will also be included in the Newsletter at the beginning of each academic year reminding parents of details of the homework policy.
- The Homework policy will be available on the School website
- Parents will be asked to make it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their progress. This is reflected in the Home School Agreement.
- Parents will be asked to help their child with the self-discipline of homework – encouraging a responsible attitude and developing skills of personal organisation.

- Parents will be asked to ensure their child has an appropriate environment and resources to complete their homework (where appropriate school will support parents with resources)
- Parents will be asked to encourage their children to complete their homework.
- Homework will be discussed with parent/carers at the Annual Review and also twice per year at Parents Evening.
- With regard to homework, school will support parents who are experiencing difficulties.
- Park Community Academy is committed to ensuring the online safety of all our pupils throughout their learning across all areas of the curriculum including homework. ALL staff are responsible for ensuring the online safety of the pupils in their lessons and should report any concerns to the named people as outlined in the online safety policy. Equally parents/carers share this responsibility for online safety when their child is completing homework on the computer at home. Pupils should also be encouraged to report any concerns they have, in order to allow academic and social learning to take place in a safe and happy environment

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING HOMEWORK: -

- Class/subject teachers will monitor the homework set and which pupils are completing/returning their homework
- Within the primary departments, parents will sign a homework diary/reading record. Class records are kept in school within the secondary departments.
- Team leaders will monitor and evaluate the homework being set and completed by pupils
- SLT/SMT, Heads of Faculty and Subject Leaders will be responsible for checking samples of homework.
- Governor visits will include talking to children about homework.