

Rationale

WHY IS HOMEWORK IMPORTANT?

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

1. It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
2. It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own, vital practise for secondary school.
3. Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
4. It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
5. It can allow pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
6. It can involve parents and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
7. It can give opportunities for long-term research and other work.
8. It gives pupils valuable experience of working to dead lines.
9. It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at Secondary School.

THE NATURE OF THE HOMEWORK.

We have a system whereby the class teacher sets an allocated amount of homework per week. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes, children's abilities and topics of study. Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment. We aim to return marked homework to the pupils for the following week, whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupil's mind.

Reception: Daily reading
 Key Words
 Weekly activity

Key Stage One: Daily Reading
 Weekly Spellings
 English or Maths (one piece per week)

Years 3 & 4: Daily Reading
 Weekly Spellings
 Times Tables
 English and Maths (one piece per week)

Years 5 & 6: Daily Reading
 Weekly Spellings
 Times Tables
 English and Maths

Weekly homework may involve the following:

- Reading: Reading books are taken home as a matter of course. Pupils read or share books at home and/or practise key words or sounds with their family. Parents routinely write a comment in a school reading diary, which clearly informs the teacher of the pupil's achievements. The children receive a sticker from the Principal once they have read 15 times and a small prize for every time they read 30 times.

- Spellings: The children will be sent home with a set of spellings to practise at home and daily in class. The children will be tested on these spellings weekly.
- English based activity, which could be cross-curricular.
- Maths based activity.

Recommended time allocation for homework:

- Reception = 20 minutes per week plus daily reading
- Years 1 and 2 = 20 minutes per week plus daily reading
- Years 3 and 4 = Approximately 20 minutes per piece, plus daily times tables, reading and spelling practise
- Years 5 and 6 = Approximately 30 minutes per piece, a total of one hour per week, plus daily times tables, reading and spelling practise

The task selected by the class teacher is commensurate with the ability of the pupils and links to the work being carried out in class. Teachers will include examples wherever necessary eg mathematical operations, methods of calculation, etc.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL HELP PUPILS ORGANISE THEIR HOMEWORK?

- a) Each pupil in Key Stage One is allocated a Homework Book at the beginning of the school year and children in Key Stage Two are given an English and Maths Homework Book.
- b) We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and homework sheets include relevant advice and examples.
- c) We aim to mark or respond to homework before setting the next piece, and in a way that is helpful to pupils.
- d) Homework will be set on a Wednesday to be completed by the following Tuesday.

HOW CAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

- a) Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- b) Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home. Quiet space, away from distractions and electronic devices.
- c) Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- d) Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help.

The staff will keep a record of pupils who have handed in their homework. This will be used to provide evidence for rewarding pupils who consistently produce homework in a timely fashion. Homework that is not handed in after continuous requests from the teacher will be completed during lunchtime at school, before the next piece of homework is set.

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Date of Next Review: January 2024