

Gretton Primary School

Homework Policy

1. Rationale

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to their development. We recognise that children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire this skill.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment however we also acknowledge the importance of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Homework should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that are available to young people today.

2. Definitions

Homework is anything that children do, outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support, consolidate and apply children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

3. Aim

To encourage pupils to consolidate and develop their learning skills, whilst also providing opportunities for parents and carers to be involved in this learning process.

4. Objectives

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future;
- To help parents understand the context of the learning and their child's progress.

5. Strategies and procedures

5.1 Types of homework

We set a variety of homework activities, including online tasks such as MyMaths; some of which are highlighted below.

In the Foundation Stage, we ask parents to help their children practise the Jolly Phonics letter sounds taught at school. We then ask them to help their children practise recognising key words on sight, to support their early reading skills. We also ask them to read regularly with their children.

We encourage all children to develop their reading by asking them to take home a book to share with their parents. We give guidance to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from the time spent reading with their child. From Year 1, we also ask children to learn spellings each week as part of their homework and in Year 2 we introduce an additional weekly Maths task as well. Where possible, this is a My Maths activity to be completed online.

In Years 3 & 4, we set English or Maths homework each week and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practise at home. The learning of multiplication tables will also become a regular task and parents will be informed of the particular facts under focus.

Activities relating to other areas of the curriculum are set at points during the term and in Y5/6 an overview will be issued, outlining the nature of the weekly 'topic' homework as well as the Maths and English homework set.

For all classes a 'curriculum map' is sent out at the beginning of each term and put on the class 'blog' on our website so that parents are aware of the areas to be covered and it is hoped they will talk about the topics at home. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and/or local library and the Internet.

Occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it.

5.2 Amount of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We would hope that children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 spend approximately ten minutes per day doing homework, although this will include reading with a parent. We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to do approximately an hour. Year 5 are expected to spend approximately 1.25 - 1.5 hours per week on homework and children in Year 6 to spend approximately 2 - 2.5 hours per week.

For all children this includes regular reading. Kingfishers and Owls have home reading records for parents to note books read & comments, a spelling book to record spellings tested & in Year 2 a maths homework folder for any tasks not set through My Maths. These go home when tasks are set. Children in Year 3 & 4 have a 'homework' folder for keeping set work and a 'comments' sheet for parents to use.

If homework is not completed the teacher will monitor the situation and when three pieces have been missed, the parents will be informed.

5.3 Pupils with Special Needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are on the Special Needs Register, we refer to Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Equally, those children who are more able will be set homework tasks appropriate to their ability.

6 Roles

6.1 The role of the class teacher

Teachers will ensure clear instructions are given to pupils on what they need to do to complete the homework. Once homework is returned, teachers will use it to help inform their on-going assessment of a pupil's understanding and progress and they will provide feedback to the child about this. Teachers will also encourage pupils to maintain a regular reading routine.

6.2 The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.

Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

The staff welcome comments from parents as to how they think an activity went or any difficulties experienced by the child. They should write these on the back of the worksheet, attach a post-it note to the work or write a comment on the homework sheet (Year 2, 3 & 4) or in the homework diary (for Year 5 & 6).

If parents have any problems or questions about homework they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Headteacher.

7 Review period and date of next review

Last reviewed: Autumn 2016

Next review date: Autumn 2018

8 Guidance on teaching

N/A

9 Links

This policy links to the Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Policy.