



Homework Policy

What is homework?

Homework is any learning activity that pupils are asked to do outside of normal lesson time.

The school believes homework is important for the following reasons:

- To bridge the gap between home and school
- To encourage self-discipline and personal organisation, especially in KS2
- To support learning
- To allow parents/ carers to take part their child's education and share in their child's learning
- It is a valuable way of providing parents/ carers with an opportunity to know about their child's work in school.

'Well planned makes an important contribution to pupils' progress at school and helps pupils achieve high standards,'
(Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and training in Wales – Homework in primary and Secondary school 2004)

What homework will be given?

The setting of tasks to be undertaken at home will usually be linked to current class-work and may include activities such as:

- reading – learning letters / blends, reading aloud to parents, reading for pleasure, reading for information
- learning of multiplication tables, number bonds or other number facts
- learning of spellings
- words / poetry for assemblies / concerts etc, - Church services, Christmas concert, Urdd, Kerry eisteddfod etc
- completion or extension of work begun in class – e.g. finishing off a worksheet
- additional research – e.g. looking for information about stars, people in history etc
- collecting information – e.g. nutritional information on food packaging
- investigations – e.g. shapes of shadows
- discussion – e.g. asking grandparents about their school life,

We will not set homework for its own sake or simply because a child is being taken out of school for a family holiday.

How often is homework given?

The frequency and length of the homework tasks will vary according to the age and ability of the child and may vary according to the programme of work in class at the time or other activities that are going on.

The following guidelines are not rigid but give a rough idea of how much time children should be spending on homework:

Years 1 & 2 – 1 hour per week

Years 3 & 4 – 1-2 hours per week

Years 5 & 6 – around 30 minutes daily

We do understand that there are many opportunities to learn and develop through participation in a wide range of challenging and enjoyable activities such as sport and voluntary or community activities, that children also need time to relax, socialise and enjoy life outside school and that homework should not limit such opportunities. Homework will be therefore be discussed regularly and monitored annually to ensure that it remains relevant and that pupils are not overburdened.

Feedback

Homework will be marked regularly by the class teacher and helpful feedback given either in writing or orally in class.

The school expects parents to sign and date their child’s reading book and homework and welcomes any comments parents wish to write in reading record books, homework books and on worksheets etc. In this way a valuable dialogue can develop which helps to maintain closer links between home and school. Parents should also feel able to ask for advice about their child’s homework and what they can do to help them in other ways.

What happens if homework is not completed?

Homework should be completed and returned to the teacher within the time set. It is important that the children develop good habits regarding this but, given a good reason, teachers will be understanding if this is not possible. If homework fails to be completed on a regular basis then the class teacher will discuss this firstly with the child. If it continues, the parents will be contacted to establish the reason why and look for a solution to fit that child.

Approved by the Chair of Governors

Signed					
Date					