



# **Homework Policy**

## **Rationale**

The establishment of a homework policy ensures that all parties involved in this curricular area – children, parents and teachers – have a clear view of the purpose of setting home-based tasks and the role they play in the homework structure.

Homework tasks should vary, giving parents an overview of the work being covered in class. Pupils should be encouraged to develop good homework habits to enhance progress and facilitate the constructive use of their own time, thus fostering life-long learning skills.

## **Aims**

1. To review or reinforce classwork.
2. To prepare or research ongoing class-based activities.
3. To develop a responsible and confident attitude in children towards homework.
4. To strengthen home/school links by the close involvement of parents in all aspects of homework.
5. To give opportunities to apply skills.

Homework should be purposeful and within the grasp of the children. It should encompass different areas of the curriculum and include a variety of activities to encourage interest and motivation. It need not always take the form of a written task, it should be varied and incorporate such things as:

- ✓ Reading for pleasure or information.
- ✓ Research work related to current class topic.
- ✓ Rote learning activities e.g. spelling, multiplication tables.

Staff will set homework Monday to Thursday, suited to the needs of their children. Monday-Wednesday will include written tasks and Thursday should focus on digital tasks. Parents should check for homework on a daily basis. Parents are encouraged to sign diaries at the end of each week and pupils should reflect on learning.

The time set on tasks should be as follows:

P1-3	15-20 minutes approximately
P4-7	20-30 minutes approximately

Homework throughout the week for children in Primary 1 and 2 will focus on phonics, reading and numeracy work. All information pertaining to the homework set each day will be recorded in the Homework Diary.

Homework will be set as follows for Primaries 3-7:

- 2 numeracy based activities
- 2 literacy based activities
- daily reading

Rote learning activities such as spelling and multiplication tables will feature throughout the week's tasks. Where children are experiencing difficulties or where staff feel that a more intensive programme of work would be beneficial, parents will be consulted and asked to participate.

## **Parental Involvement**

Full parental support and co-operation is a vital part of a good working homework policy.

The role of parents is to encourage, assist and monitor homework.

At the early stages, the "hearing of reading" is a familiar exercise between parent and child.

Through discussion, observation and careful questioning, the parent helps to develop the child's skills in language.

In Primaries 4 to 7 this continues to be the case through paired activities and promoting the concept of reading for pleasure. It is important to remember that recreational reading should be encouraged on a regular basis as it helps to enrich all aspects of the children's development.

As the children progress through the school this valuable relationship must continue to develop. If parents are asked to help in research and topic activities or in listening to oral activities they will not only continue the skills built up at the children's infant stages, but will also add their own knowledge and talents in assisting with the children's homework tasks.

Parents play an important role in monitoring, supporting or actively helping their children understand the purpose of their work, but can only do that when the school communicates its policy and engages parents in dialogue about the relationship between home and school learning. We can aid conscious interaction at home by involving parents through workshops and parents' evenings.

### **The Homework Environment**

The homework environment will often vary from task to task, as indeed does the learning environment in the school. The best situation would be a time and place agreed by both parent and child. Parents however are encouraged to create a proper homework environment for their children so that work outwith formal classroom teaching is recognised as being an important and rewarding activity building on the good practice already existing in the school.

### **Long Term Illness**

After a child has been absent for one week or more, parents may contact the school and arrangements will be made for consultation with the class teacher regarding missed school work.

### **Holiday Homework (Unauthorised Absence)**

When children are taken away on family holidays during term time they obviously miss the direct teaching and guidance of the class teacher. SLC policy states that work should not be given to pupils who are on holiday as this is an unauthorised absence.

### **Monitoring Homework**

An important aspect of homework is for children to be able to relate to parents what they have been involved in during school time and what they are now expected to do at home. This allows discussion and help from parents to take place. Although monitoring is desirable, parents should be careful to avoid doing the child's homework.

Parents should take this opportunity to spend quality time with their children, working towards a common goal together and building an even stronger relationship through sharing thoughts and ideas.

### **Teacher's Role**

- To set well prepared tasks which are appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure that the tasks are clearly understood by the pupils.
- To ensure that homework tasks are purposeful and encompass a variety of curricular areas.
- To provide tasks which encourage interest and motivation.
- To correct completed tasks.
- To monitor the completion of homework and inform the head teacher of any problems which arise.
- To encourage and praise good efforts and show appreciation of the pupils' work.
- To comment on homework performance in the annual report.

### **Pupil's Role**

- To complete homework tasks in the allocated time.
- To ensure that written homework is well presented.
- To ensure that homework is handed to the teacher as and when requested.
- To ensure that homework is signed by the parent or parent representative.

### **Parent's Role**

- To become familiar with the school's homework policy and endeavour to ensure its implementation.
- To check the homework diary on a daily basis and sign at the end of each week.

- To encourage the completion of homework tasks within the recommended time.
- To assist with their child's homework where necessary.
- To monitor homework (but avoid doing the tasks for the child).
- To check that homework is completed neatly and correctly.