



Name of policy: HOMEWORK POLICY

Version	Date	Approved by governors	Description
1	Sept 2012	Sept 2012	New policy

This policy is due for review on: Autumn 2014



Highwood Primary School

Homework Policy

Rationale

We consider homework to refer to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or with parents or carers.

Homework, if set and responded to effectively, will make an important contribution to pupils learning and progress at school and will have an impact on raising levels of children's achievement.

Learning at home is part of the process of lifelong learning which we aim to facilitate in partnership with parents.

We recognise the quality and effectiveness of homework depends on how well it is planned and then responded to by school staff and the high expectations we hold about pupil outcomes. The quality of task set is more important than time spent completing homework.

Our aims in setting homework

- Consolidating and reinforcing learning in the classroom particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Developing knowledge and skills in all curriculum areas
- Developing an effective partnership between home and school
- Exploiting resources for learning which lie outside the school
- Help children develop the self-discipline, skills and attitudes needed for study on their own to ensure they can become successful lifelong learners

For children at KS1, homework should consist largely of reading and sharing books with parents and carers. It will include short activities of different kinds; simple games, learning spellings and number facts and develop speaking and listening skills.

At KS2, homework will include reading, spelling, mathematics and opportunities for self-study and independent learning within a regular weekly schedule. Activities may include finding out information, reading in preparation for lessons, preparing oral presentations, planning for class work and written assignments.

The ability to manage time and complete tasks independently are valid learning skills which may need to be taught in their own right.

Homework timetable

Each year group produces and shares a homework timetable giving guidance what homework is to take place.

Years 1 and 2 1.5 hours /week

Years 3 and 4 1.5 – 2 hours /week

Years 5 and 6 30 minutes/day

Reading

In addition, when homework activities do not include reading we encourage all children to read for about 20 minutes a night (less for infants or those with shorter concentration spans).

Reading journals

All children at Highwood keep a reading journal that tracks how often pupils read at home/in school. Parents, children and Highwood staff are expected to complete the journals as well.

Reading at EYFS/KS1/KS2

Regular reading at the Foundation Stage is essential if children are to make progress in their reading skills. Therefore all Highwood pupils need exposure to books on a daily basis. Expectations differ for each phase of the school.

Children on book bands – read at home and in school on a daily basis, books should be changed every 1/2 days, unless too long to do so. Parents, staff to complete reading journals.

Children on free readers – read at home and in school on a daily basis – reading journals to be completed by children, staff and adults.

Homework context

Homework needs to be relevant. Therefore work that is set relates to the children's learning and what they are studying in school. Additional homework may be given to pupils who require extra support or challenge.

Feedback

Just as for lessons, children need feedback about what they are doing well and how they can improve. Parents can help by giving more immediate feedback.

Prompt Feedback from school staff who set homework is essential. This may take the form of oral or written feedback as part of class discussion, a lead-in to a lesson, though a test or written feedback on work.

Meeting individual and special educational needs

All our children are entitled to homework as part of their inclusive education. We will ensure all children have opportunity to experience success with their homework by

- Ensuring tasks set are matched to pupils' abilities
- Having tasks with a clear focus and expected timescale
- Using varied tasks which are not always written

Parents and homework

We expect parents to set up an appropriate space at home where children can complete their homework. Parental guidance and support is essential to help children. However, parents are not expected to do the homework for their children.

Homework can be stressful and if children are over anxious about their tasks, we would prefer parents to inform the class teacher, rather than force their child to complete work.

Parents views on homework are always welcome.

Homework club

The school runs a homework club for 2 afternoons a wekk (when needed) to support pupils in the homework process. If parents wish their children to attend homework club, they need to request that their child joins.

Non completion of homework

Children's homework is tracked so that full records of pupils completing homework are kept. If pupils do not complete homework they may be asked to;

- Take it home and complete it
- Stay in at a break and complete it

If they continually refuse to do homework, the class teacher will

- Phone home to speak to parents and carers
- Arrange a meeting for the Headteacher to speak to the parents

Monitoring and evaluation

Teaching staff monitor and record completion of homework tasks and will intervene when children do not respond. We recognise that consistent monitoring within a climate of high expectations will largely ensure all children respond positively to homework tasks and deadlines. Homework tasks are linked to our rewards and sanctions. Team leaders will monitor the success of our policy and bring any issues to management meetings.