

Homework Policy

Birkdale Primary School



"Attainment through Caring, Challenge & Creativity"

September 2021
Continually Reviewed

Our Homework Policy

- This policy sets out the school's views on the value of homework and outlines expectations for homework in all Key Stages and Year groups.
- The policy describes the roles of the Governing Body, Headteacher, teachers, parents/carers and children.
- This homework policy has been developed annually following meetings with staff and as a result of parental questionnaire data and parental consultations

We believe homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in Mathematics, English and other curriculum areas, helps raise the level of achievement of individual pupils; provides opportunities for parents and children to work together and, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school. We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school.

We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time.'

A breakdown of how homework is structured is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for high school. Most of the homework is provided for completion over the course of a week, fortnight or term so it can be made to fit around family lifestyles and commitments.

Nursery

- In the Spring Term, a soft toy is taken home by the children and they complete a task which is usually literacy related and then shared with the class.
- We aim to have one home/school activity linked to every topic e.g. 'Stick Man' drawings which are completed after each half term.
- Some children have a home/school pack to take home- this often supports speech and language needs/targets.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to take library books home to share with their child.

Reception

- Homework will be set every week using our remote learning platform, Google classroom. The work will be linked to the class topic and will be literacy, mathematical or topic based.
- When the children are 'ready to read' they will be given a reading book and a recording diary for parents/carers to sign and comment on about their child's reading progress at home.
- Along with a reading book, children will be given a sheet of reception high frequency and tricky words to learn. Reading books will be sent home from school every day and changed frequently.

Key Stage One - Years 1 and 2

- All children take home reading books on a daily basis. Parents/carers are encouraged to listen to their child read each night and to record in their reading diary to say that they have done so. Children begin to take responsibility for changing their books and are encouraged to put them into the 'changing box' in their classroom as soon as they are ready for a new one.
- Homework is set weekly via our remote learning platform Google Classrooms (paper copies are available for children who have difficulties accessing technology at home). Each week a task is set, the subject for each week follows a cycle of either English (*reading, writing, phonics or SPAG activity*), Maths or Topic. Work is marked and the feedback is sent back to the child via Google Classrooms. Paper copies are also excepted too.
- High Frequency words are also sent home for parents to practice spelling and reading with their child.
- Occasionally, the children will bring home some 'Big Talking' homework in preparation for a written task the following day. It is only meant to be a short verbal task and really helps the children to clarify their ideas for writing.

Key Stage Two

Google Classrooms

- Every week, homework will be set on our remote learning platform Google Classroom.
- There will be links to their weekly homework which will include *Purple Mash, MyMaths* and *Times table Rock Stars* plus any other tasks their teacher sets for the week. Homework will consist of short tasks, usually online, linked to subjects and topics that the children are covering in school that week.

Reading

- All children in KS2 have a levelled book.
- During the week, we ask that you try to read with your child each day, for up to 20 minutes, and write a comment or initial your child's reading diary.
- We also want to continue to promote 'a love for reading', so children will be encouraged to also choose a book they would like to read for enjoyment. When you are reading at home, they can read either book, although their levelled reading book is the one that is directly assessed at their reading level.

Please Note: A Reading Record is sent home with all Home Reading books. The school will replace a 'first loss' free of charge. We also ask for a contribution from parents for any additional lost or damaged reading books.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has delegated responsibilities to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy; Governors will visit the school as often as possible, liaise with the Headteacher and report back to the Governing Body. Governors may 'interview' the children about their homework and how it is supporting their schoolwork. All staff and the Governing Body are ultimately responsible for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will promote this policy by raising its status and importance; ensure that homework is built into teachers planning; provide supportive guidance for parents; keep up to date with new developments with regard to homework; monitor and evaluate this policy.

Role of the Teacher

Teachers must integrate homework into their planning; set interesting tasks or activities; set homework appropriate to each child; explain when, what and how the work is to be done so that each child clearly understands; provide feedback in line with the marking and feedback policy.

Role of Parents/Carers

- Praise the value of homework to their children;
- Provide a suitable space in their home where their children can concentrate on their homework;
- Establish a homework routine such as no television;
- Provide materials pens, pencils etc. (available from school if necessary);
- Go through the homework before their child starts and discuss the completed work when finished;
- Attempt to make the experience pleasurable;
- Find time to work with their child or be at hand if a problem arises;
- Discuss, encourage and praise their child's efforts;
- Contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it;
- Contribute to school evaluation so the school can monitor and evaluate its effectiveness (annual questionnaires or through appointment).

Role of Children

Children are asked to:

- Complete their homework and hand it in on time;
- Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them;
- Contribute to pupil interviews and pupil questionnaires on homework for the school to monitor and evaluate;
- Make sure they get feedback on their homework;
- Highlight to the School Council any ideas they may have about homework
- Complete their homework using appropriate writing materials
- Have a go at all their homework activities

Types of Homework

All homework tasks and activities are designed to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding in Mathematics and English and enhance cross curricular teaching.

Feedback

All children receive prompt feedback on their homework in a variety of forms such as:

- verbal

- written
- class discussion
- praise and recognition during an achievement assembly

Parents are asked to:

- give teachers any feedback they feel might be useful;
- encourage their children to talk about the feedback they have received;
- contact the school if they have any concerns

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the *Governors*.