

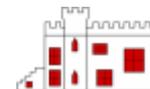


School Policy

Homework Policy

September 2015, Issue 3

Document Number: AP-18



Document Approval

This document was reviewed and approved by the Governing Body as appropriate and effective.

Signed:

If this is one of the 2 official copies the Approver shall write "Copy 1" or "Copy 2" and initial here:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Document Review

The Governing Body will review this policy to ensure that it is appropriate and effective whenever necessary, and not less than once every four years.

Document Control

There is one controlled paper copy of this document in the Policies File in the Junior Building. An electronic version is also available on our website in the policies area of the staff area on the server.

All other copies (electronic and paper) are uncontrolled.

Document History

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Issue	Description of Change	Author	Checked	Date
A	Initial	JRE/SB		25-01-07
1.0	Approved by the Policy Working Group	JRE	SB	17-03-07
2	Updated by J Briggs	JB		1.2.12
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North and South Cowton Community Primary School

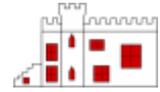
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Homework is any work or activities that pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Homework may be formal, such as learning spellings and reading, or informal, such as when a parent or carer explores a child's knowledge of a current topic (for example, encouraging a child to count money when shopping).
- 1.2 Through this policy we aim to ensure we have a consistent approach to homework, which is clearly communicated to parents and carers.

2 Rationale for homework

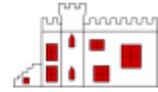
- 2.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.
- 2.2 We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 2.3 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:
 - to support pupils in making maximum progress in their academic and social development;
 - to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school;
 - to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
 - to exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
 - to extend school learning, for example through additional reading; and
 - to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

4 Types and Amount of Homework

- 4.1 We regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.
- 4.2 The core subjects of English and Maths are the two areas where homework is given on a regular basis
- 4.3 **English:**
 - Reading homework is undertaken by all the children, from Reception to Year 6. Each day all the children take home a reading book and a reading record. The



book will be changed once it has been read. The expectation in Class 1 is that it is done 3 times a week.

- All children, take home spellings to learn. This is phased in during the Early Years.

4.4 It is expected that Infant children spend 1 hour per week on English homework, and once children reach the Juniors this should rise to 1½ hours per week.

4.5 We give guidance to parents on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.

4.6 **Maths:**

- All children in KS2 will get formal maths homework every week. They will also have a target for the term to improve their mental maths skills and some information about how to practise the skills in a fun and practical way.
- KS1 children have a Mental Maths homework book to complete. This consists of 3 sections and it is recommended they do section A and B each week.

4.7 **Topic:**

- At the beginning of each term the class decides on a varied selection of homework activities. These could include making cakes, writing reports, inventing games, drawing pictures or researching topics.

4.8 When we issue formal or compulsory homework we will communicate this to parents via the weekly Newsletter.

4.9 In addition, children are requested to research at home many of the topics that are being studied in class. This informal, non-compulsory homework may be communicated to the children verbally.

4.10 Examples of activities which we ask children to undertake as homework are:

- during discussions on the study of Anglo-Saxons the Juniors might be asked to research the Anglo-Saxons and bring in any information they could find to discuss with the class;
- in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young, and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children.
- sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and
- occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school, when we believe that they could benefit from spending further time on it.

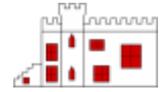
4.11 When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library and the Internet.

4.12 Formal homework is marked according to the general school marking policy (which is set out in the Marking and Feedback Policy). Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised.

4.13 We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

5 Inclusion and Homework

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



- 5.2 We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

6 The Role of Parents

- 6.1 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 and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.
- 6.2 Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library or by using the internet
- 6.3 We ask parents to read the weekly Newsletter, where we will include details of any formal or compulsory homework.
- 6.4 We ask parents to check the reading record daily, and to sign it as requested.
- 6.5 If parents have any 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. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

7 Use of ICT

- 7.1 The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.
- 7.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.
- 7.3 Some of the educational software we use in school can be bought or used free of charge by parents on a home-user licence. This ensures that children are using age-appropriate software in their work at home. The school will supply interested parents with details.
- 7.4 We discourage children from bringing memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is e-mailed to the teacher at school.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1 The Headteacher is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. As part of our programme of monitoring and self-assessment staff inspect samples of the children's work and of the teachers' homework planning.
- 8.2 It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our Headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.