

Haslingfield Endowed Primary School

Homework Policy

Approved By	FGB
Date Approved	November 2023
Review Cycle	Every 2 Years
Next Review Due By	November 2025
Responsible Officer	Donna Peck

1. Aims

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest.
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the whole school.
- Encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- Make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school
- Make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

2. Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. In addition to this, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

3. Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school the amount of homework increases.
- Teachers ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear learning objectives and motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant
- Parents will be informed about our aims in setting homework and about the importance this type of work plays in children's education

4. Homework activities

Our Creative Curriculum homework is designed to build upon the concepts and skills that the children have been learning across a range of subjects.

In addition to daily reading and weekly spellings, we therefore set half-termly homework menus for each year group in order to provide a range of engaging activities for the children to choose from to motivate and inspire them into becoming independent learners. These homework menus cover a range of activities that cover many areas of the curriculum.

- The menus offer a choice of homework tasks that can be completed in any order.
- Tasks are to be completed in the children's homework books.
- By the end of each term, the children will be expected to have completed a minimum of 5 homework tasks of their choosing. They can hand these in when they have completed but ideally something once a week unless it is a bigger task.
- Children receive a new menu at the beginning of each term.
- Children have the opportunity to complete more tasks if they wish to do so. Some tasks will have an optional challenge that the children can complete to extend their learning further.

A breakdown of how homework is structured in each class is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for secondary school.

Reception

- Reading and sharing books daily; adults to keep a signed record in the Home-School Diary.
- Weekly rainbow challenges shared on Tapestry.
- Weekly phonics learning sheets covering the sounds and tricky words that the children have covered that week.
- Directed to activities on our learning platform- Education City.

Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

- Reading/sharing books with parents/carers at least 4 times weekly and recording in the child's reading record.
- Children will bring home a list of spellings which will follow the spelling patterns taught in their spelling lessons- Year 2.
- Weekly phonics learning sheets covering the sounds and tricky words that the children have covered that week- Year 1.
- Learning of multiplication facts 2, 5, and 10 (and starting on 3 when ready) using Times Table Rock Stars- Yr 2 Spring term onwards.
- KIRF's sent home half termly and to be practised little and often.
- Directed to activities on our learning platform- Education City.
- Creative Curriculum Homework Menu activities linked to the current topic – at least 5 per half term

Lower Key stage 2 (Year 3 and 4)

- Reading at least 4 times a week- children to complete their reading records in addition to their parents.
- Learning times tables using Times Tables Rock stars (continuing with 2, 5 and 10 and learning of multiplication facts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 when ready)
- KIRF's sent home half termly and to be practised little and often.
- A spelling list will be provided at the beginning of each half term, children to practise these and use them in their own sentences.
- Directed to activities on our learning platform- Education City.
- Creative Curriculum Homework Menu activities linked to the current topic – at least 5 per half term
- Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activity

Upper Key stage 2 (Year 5 and 6)

- Reading at least 4 times a week- children to complete their own reading records and parents to sign at least weekly.
- Learning of multiplication facts ongoing - all tables to be revised, in any order, mixed and to include division
- KIRF's sent home half termly and to be practised little and often.
- A spelling list will be provided at the beginning of each half term, children to practise these and use them in their own sentences.
- Directed to activities on our learning platform- Education City.
- Creative Curriculum Homework Menu activities linked to the current topic – at least 5 per half term
- Children may be given a specific literacy and/or numeracy activity
- From the Spring Term, Y6 children will also have SATs revision and activities as homework.

5. Expectations

It is the expectation that all children will at least attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability. If children need further support or are struggling to complete the activities at home then please talk to your child's class teacher and they can offer further guidance or amend the homework accordingly.

Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher.

Pupils are expected to complete homework to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g. taking care over presentation, sentence structure etc.

A reminder of homework expectations will be stuck in the front of the children's homework book.

6. Ways that you can help at home

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it.

The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- Providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- Making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.
- Making the school aware if your child is struggling with their homework so that we can give extra support where needed and amend the task/expectation to suit your child's needs.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- Visits to libraries and museums- here there can be links to history, geography or art.
- Cooking with your child- links with maths (measuring) and science (change in materials.)
- Taking your child swimming.
- Playing games, e.g. board games, cards, UNO, ball games.
- Watching informative TV programmes together
- Providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- Gardening and growing plants or own food.
- Using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning it.

Remember: Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building...