

Hawkshead Esthwaite Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Homework is an important part of the learning process and can instil positive habits for lifelong learning. As a school we expect all children to engage in home learning and parents to support this.

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach by staff throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too demanding nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

Appropriate time allocations for homework activities are:

- Early Years (Reception) and Year 1: 10 mins reading/being read to daily and 1 weekly phonics task
- Years 2 and 3: 2 tasks taking between 10-15 minutes per week plus 10 minutes reading each day and weekly spellings to learn.
- Years 4 and 5: 2 tasks of between 20 and 30 minutes per week plus 10 minutes reading each day and weekly spellings to learn.
- Year 6: 2 tasks of 30 minutes per week plus 15 minutes reading each day and weekly spellings to learn.
- Year 6 homework will vary during the Spring Term as pupils revise in preparation for end of year assessments

Early Years and Year 1 Homework:

Parents are encouraged to spend time developing children's understanding and skills and encouraging active thinking about their world. Activities might include :

- Reading books and identifying letters and sounds.
- Counting up and down stairs.
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes.
- Identification of shapes in their environment.
- Fastening and unfastening zips, tying shoelaces.
- Simple sorting activities and puzzles.

In Years Two and Three Activities may include:

- Reading aloud.
- Spellings and cursive letter practice.
- Literacy activities.
- Numeracy activities (including times tables).
- Real life numeracy related problems.
- Topic and project research

In Key Stage 2 Activities may include:

- Reading aloud.
- Learning spellings.
- 'Talk Homework' that involves discussing the focus for a future piece of writing.
- Reading comprehension activities.
- Planning pieces of writing.
- Planning presentations.
- Researching topics.
- Learning Times Tables.
- Learning number facts and number bonds.
- Practising calculation strategies learned in class.

Key Considerations and Principles for parents:

- Make homework fun by being enthusiastic.
- Praise the children for their efforts.
- Contact the teacher to discuss work that your child has found hard.
- Find a quiet time and a place for homework.
- Encourage your child to explain activities and give them lots of time to think.
- Let your child take the lead role, they will learn more that way.
- If you have problems with IT based aspects, such as passwords and log in details, then please let school know as soon as possible so that this can be rectified.

Key responsibilities for teachers:

- Home learning will be set and given out on the predetermined day for that year group.
- Home learning will be appropriate for the individual child's learning needs.
- Home learning will be accessible for children and their parents.
- All home learning will be checked in and marked.

General principles

Homework will be given out on specific nights, to be arranged by individual class teachers, with parents being informed at the start of the Autumn Term.

Set work will be done in a homework book in which there may be notes about homework tasks, messages from the teacher and comments by parents to support the children's learning.

Wherever possible homework that is returned by pupils or carried out on line will be marked. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile. It also reinforces the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life.

If children are absent due to illness, homework will not be sent unless specifically requested by parents. If parents take holiday during term time additional homework will not be provided, but the child should keep a diary or scrapbook of their holiday and then share this with the class teacher.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should make an appointment to see their child's teacher.

Completion of homework:

It is expected that home learning is to be completed by all children and handed in on time. On the day of handing in, children will be reminded and given an extra night to return the homework if required. If home learning is still not returned, children will complete the home learning during morning break.

Review

This policy will be next reviewed July 2019