



HOMELANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMWORK POLICY

ADOPTED BY THE FULL GOVERNORS ON.....29.03.06.....

REVIEWED.....07.12.10.....

REVIEWED.....

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

Homework can, we believe, make an important contribution to children's progress in school. At Homelands Primary School homework encompasses a wide range of tasks and should support and extend learning that takes place in the classroom.

As the child moves through the school the emphasis on homework moves from shared working with parents to developing the skills of independent study, for each child at their own level. Research has consistently shown that this type of partnership with parents contributes to increased progress.

Purpose of Homework

- To value the role parents / carers actively take in their child's learning
- To extend and support learning which has taken place in school
- To exploit resources for learning outside of school
- To encourage pupils to develop the self discipline and responsibility needed to study on their own

Foundation Stage

Parents are encouraged to support a range of activities as outlined in the termly curriculum letters. Library books are borrowed by the nursery children to share with parents.

Children in the Reception class take home key words and card matching activities, before progressing on to reading books. In both Nursery and Reception curriculum meetings are offered to parents who wish to support their children's learning. Parents are also provided with a phonics pack and fun pack, as well as mark making and maths packs containing basic equipment and guidance for use at home. Handwriting booklets are distributed where necessary to practise and consolidate skills.

Key Stage One Years 1 and 2

Children are encouraged to read for 10 minutes each night from a range of fiction and non-fiction home-school readers. Spellings are sent home on a weekly basis and tested the following week. Numeracy tasks are sent home as appropriate to support and extend the children's learning. In addition children are set tasks from other areas of the curriculum, when appropriate.

Generally two home learning tasks are set each term; these are designed to encourage parents and children to share a topic-based activity at home and to stimulate discussion.

Lower Key Stage Two **Years 3 and 4**

In years 3 and 4 the children are expected to spend up to 1½ hours approximately per week on homework activities. These will include learning spellings for a weekly test, daily reading and learning multiplication tables.

In addition Literacy, Numeracy or Science tasks may be set during the term, together with a termly home learning task which, as in Key Stage 1, is a topic-based extended task.

Upper Key Stage Two **Years 5 and 6**

In years 5 and 6 the children are expected to spend up to 2½ hours per week on homework activities, such as regular spellings, tables and reading. Whilst the activities mainly reflect those of years 3 and 4, a greater emphasis is placed on independence.

Individual teachers will inform parents at the beginning of the year of the pattern of homework within their class. Not all homework tasks will be written ones and may involve children in practical activities with parents. Pupils in year 6 are expected to organise their homework using their Homelands planner. At year 6 revision tasks and a presentation or project work is also set for the children to complete in their own time.

In addition a termly home learning task which, as in Key Stage 1, is a topic-based extended task, will be set.

Children with Special Needs

We will set appropriate homework for children with special needs and Teachers and Learning Support Assistants will be responsible for ensuring this matches closely work being undertaken in class.

The role of parents / carers

It is important that parents support their children's learning by taking an interest in homework set. It is also helpful if parents can provide a reasonably quiet environment for children to complete tasks. Praising children for completing homework will encourage and motivate them. As they reach year 5 and 6 children should be encouraged to work independently and take responsibility for organising their work and time. This will be helpful in preparing the children for transfer to secondary school.

Wherever possible, training in new mathematical methods will be provided for parents to enable them to assist children with their homework. Should parents have any concerns or problems with homework they should contact the class teacher immediately.

Response to Homework

Sometimes the results of homework will be used within a lesson and verbal feedback given. Other homework may be marked, for example spelling or numeracy.

Staff will ensure that there is an opportunity to discuss and celebrate completed home learning tasks.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Policy

The homework policy will be monitored through team meetings in Foundation Stage, Key Stage One and Two, to see how successfully the policy is being implemented. It will be regularly reviewed and views of both parents and children will be sought through questionnaires and informal discussion.