



## Homework Policy - Learning at Home

The Department for Education (DfE) in March 2012 gave schools and Headteachers the autonomy to decide what homework was appropriate for their children in their school.

As a school we should support pupils' learning experiences and try to involve parents in their child's learning and offer support through workshops, parent prompts, meetings and the introduction of a homework diary/book. The diary/book should reflect progression over the primary stages.

Hurst Knoll St James' CE Primary School is firmly committed to raising the attainment of all pupils in its school and recognises the significant contribution homework can make to the personal, social and academic success of each individual pupil.

Homework provides an opportunity for parent and child to share purposeful learning opportunities in the supportive atmosphere of the home. It can, therefore, become a vehicle for developing and enhancing partnership and raising pupil attainment.

### The benefits of homework

A well managed homework policy can bring about benefits for both pupils and parents.

For pupils, these may include:

- A sense of responsibility for their own learning;
- Opportunities for additional learning time;
- Improved pupil self-confidence and motivation;
- The formation of study skills.

For parents these may include:

- Sharing in their child's learning;
- Showing an interest in their child's education;
- Monitoring their child's progress.

### The purposes of homework

- To provide the pupil with practice in aspects of class work;
- To enable pupils to become independent learners;
- To encourage pupils to manage their time;
- To foster a partnership between home and school;
- By providing parents with an opportunity to share in their child's learning;
- To enable parents to be involved and informed about the type of work being undertaken in class.

### Types of homework

- Reinforcement of class work;
- Research topics and investigations;
- Preparation for class work;

- Reviewing, redrafting or summarising a piece of work;
- Activities related to personal and social development;
- Preparation for a presentation

### **The frequency, duration and nature of homework**

- Homework will be given out on a Friday in the form of a sheet with five pieces of homework:
  - I. 1 English
  - II. 2 Maths,
  - III. 3 Cornerstones Curriculum
  - IV. 4 Cornerstones Curriculum
  - V. 5 Any other aspect of the curriculum
- There is an expectation that the children will complete three pieces of homework with English and Maths a non-negotiable
- Reading homework is expected everyday for 15 minutes and is separate to the homework sheet
- Homework tasks are varied, challenging and differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils

### **Study skills and supported study**

- The option of a homework club will be on offer:
  - I. During breakfast club for those who attend – a specific table will be allocated for this
  - II. Every lunchtime from Monday-Thursday in a specified classroom for those children who have difficulty completing homework outside of school. There will be support for these children from a member of staff.

### **Marking and feedback**

- This will be in line with the Marking, Feedback and Presentation Policy.

The role and responsibilities of:

#### **School Leadership Team**

- To promote and publicise the homework policy
- To support staff, pupils and parents in homework
- To be aware of the specific needs of carers, bilingual parents and travelling families
- To identify and address any staff development needs when developing homework policy
- To monitor and evaluate the homework policy

#### **Class Teacher**

- To promote and support the homework policy
- To set and explain the homework task
- To remind the children on a daily basis about the option available at lunchtime
- To mark and give feedback to pupils
- To report to parents about homework

#### **Pupils**

- To recognise the important part homework plays in their education
- To keep their parents informed about homework;
- To keep the homework diary/book up to date

#### **Parents/Carers**

- To be aware of the homework policy

- To encourage and support their child
- To encourage their child to participate in supported study opportunities

### **Communication of Homework Policy**

- School policy distributed annually to parents
- 'Homework charters' agreed and signed in the Home-School Agreement
- Effective use of a homework diary/book
- Effective reporting to parents about homework
- Appropriate parent workshops and meetings

### **\*Non-completion and non-return of homework**

- A 'detention' will be issued to children in KS2 and the child will spend Friday lunchtime completing the homework set from the previous week
- Class teachers will inform the school office on Friday afternoon of those children who did not complete homework during detention
- Text message will be sent out to inform parents that homework for the week has not been completed
- Homework sheet will be given out again to ensure completion over the weekend
- Expectation that homework is handed in to the class teacher during registration at 8.50am
- Class teacher will inform the school office on Monday morning of any children that haven't completed homework and the learning mentor will phone parents to discuss

### **Early Years**

- The development of an effective parental partnership in the pre-school setting encourages early learning activities which link nursery and home. These home learning activities can play an important role in the child's early acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills.

### **Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body has:

- Delegated powers and responsibilities to the Curriculum Committee and to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy;
- Nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher and to report back to the Governing Body;
- Responsibility 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 Teachers**

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**

Parents/carers are asked to:

- Sign the Home-School Agreement indicating their support for homework;
- 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;
- Go through the homework before their child starts and discuss the completed work when finished;
- 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

**Adopted by the Governing Body Summer 2014**

**Adapted by the SLT Autumn 2014**