



Leadership Policy

Homework Policy

Policy Reference LS11

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Rationale

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities, instigated by teachers and parents/ carers to support the children's learning.

Homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We are aware that the learning experience offered by any school is only one part of a child's whole learning experience and therefore children will 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. However, there is no conclusive evidence that homework increases student achievement across the board. Some studies show positive effects of homework under certain conditions and for certain students, some show no effects, and some suggest negative effects (Kohn 2006; Trautwein and Koller 2003). Therefore, we have tailored our homework policy to suit the individual child and therefore reduced the restrictions in completing homework. We feel, at Brentnall, that real-life experience – which many children have benefitted from during lockdown – are much more purposeful than rigid, formal learning at home. This also allows for important 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 their lives.

Aims and Objectives

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account
- Ensure parents/ carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil
- Extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision where appropriate
- Provide opportunities for parents/ carers, pupils and school to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for parents/ carers and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences

Policy Content

The Purpose of Homework

- To encourage pupils to develop the skill, confidence and motivation to study independently at home effectively
- To consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school
- To extend school learning through activities such as additional reading and research
- To develop and sustain the involvement of parents/ carers in the management of their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work and progress their child is achieving
- To explore the wide range resources for learning at home eg. internet, library, adult knowledge and newspapers
- To maintain good channels of communication between home and school

Effectiveness of Homework

Homework is most effective when:

1. There is consistent practice across the school.

2. There is a regular programme so that everyone – teachers, children and parents or carers – know what to expect.
3. Pupils and parents/ carers are very clear about what they need to do.
4. Parents and carers are treated as partners in their children's learning.
5. There are high expectations of pupils in completing homework.

Homework Expectations

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and our duty of care to reduce the spread, homework will be accessed online. This will consist of:

- White Rose Maths booklets – these will be uploaded to the child's class page half termly and will complement and reflect the learning which has taken place in class
- PiXL Times Table App – guidance will be on the website
- Spellings – spellings will be given out on a Tuesday, in preparation for a spelling test on a Friday
- Reading - Children will be provided with a reading book on a Monday to take home. This book should stay at home and only be returned on a Thursday. This book will then be added to a 'quarantine box' so that the risk of spread is reduced. Children are expected to read regularly, however, we understand that children will only have access to one book per week. Subsequently, the class teacher will send additional guidance on how to further support children with reading.

Further suggestions will be provided for supporting learning at home.

NO HOMEWORK WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL

The Role of Parents/ Carers in Supporting Children

Partnerships between home and school are crucial in supporting children's development and learning. Home learning helps parents/ carers to develop a picture of their child's attainment and progress and provides an opportunity to reinforce the importance of learning as a vital tool. Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life. They are the first and ongoing educators of a child and, as such, we believe further information should be provided to help develop learning at home and in the community. A parent/ carer's support plays a vital role at all stages of education.

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent/ carer 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.

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 completed to a high standard
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework (this is dependent on the child)

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

- visits to libraries, museums etc.
- cooking with them
- taking your child swimming
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games
- watching informative TV programmes together
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- gardening and growing plants
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)
- attending any school workshops that may be on offer designed to enable parents/ carers to support their child's learning at home
- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning

*some of these activities may be restricted by Covid-19 measures

Feedback for Pupils, Parents/ Carers and Teachers

At the beginning of each half term, teachers will send curriculum information to ensure that all parents/ carers are informed of their child/ children's learning. If parents/ carers wish to discuss or share their child/ children's progress with regards to homework, the class teacher can be contacted via the class email.