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| Title | Homework Policy |
| Reviewed | September 2021 |
| Next Review | September 2023 |
| Associated Policies | Relationships & Behaviour Policy Assessment Policy Teaching and Learning Policy |
| Originator | Kate Cleaver |

Homework Policy

Rationale

Ecton Village Primary Academy is committed to setting regular homework appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. Homework is important at all stages in a child's education and when used properly, it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximise effect. Homework makes a significant contribution to the development of independent learning. Homework refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. This work will be marked where appropriate by the class teacher.

Aims of structured homework

- To support children's learning opportunities via reinforcement and revision, particularly in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Maths.
- To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and teachers to work in partnership.
- To share with parents the expectations school has regarding their child.
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences and to exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home.
- To encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.
- To equip the pupils, with the self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the increased demands of secondary school homework.

Background

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children and parents with who may struggle to complete homework.

What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

What is the role of the parent / carer?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.

- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in Reception

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception. The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

- **Adults reading to children**

Parents are encouraged to use the Library boxes in the reception classrooms. These boxes contain books that are suitable to read to children, so they can get used to print and stories. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

- **Children reading to an adult**

When they are ready to, children will start bringing books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child’s understanding of language.

Letter formation

At the beginning of the child’s first term in Reception, the class teacher will provide parents with a sheet to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start and finish when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practise forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively, so they don’t fall into bad habits.

Tricky Words

Children learn to read tricky words. After the children have learned the tricky words in each phase parents will be sent a list of the words the children have learned. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them, will really benefit the child. For some children, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced at least twice each week in the summer holiday before year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

How much time should be spent on homework?

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| Reception | Approx 15 minutes per day (depending upon the child’s level) on Literacy based activities including reading |
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Homework in Key Stage 1

For children in Key Stage 1, we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on English and reading, but we include ways in which children can be supported with important numeracy skills.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

The aim is for children to have five home reads recorded each week. Children will bring their reading books home every evening, and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words i.e., using their phonics knowledge to sound words out, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words, are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

Spelling / High Frequency Words

Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1, which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight. Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these, by practising them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further. Children should have the opportunity to practice their words over the summer holidays.

Maths

Children will be given homework to develop important numeracy skills. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills. By the end of year 2:-

- Children should be confident in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Children should be able to double each number up to 20.
- Children should be able to halve each even number up to 20.
- Children should know their number bonds of all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Children should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.
- Children should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

Teachers will sometimes send home key number facts and shape names to learn.

How much time should be spent on homework?

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| Year 1 & 2 | Reading 10-15 minutes daily Maths 15-30 minutes per week Spelling 5 minutes daily (30 minutes per week) |
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Homework in Key Stage 2

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children, but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be English and Maths, however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

Reading

We expect children in KS2 to read a minimum of 5 times a week. Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves, in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the text that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Parents should continue to complete their child's reading record to show that they have read to an adult or had a discussion about the book.

English

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

Maths

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12 by the end of year 4 and consolidate this in years 5 and 6.

How much time should be spent on homework?

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| Year 3 & 4 | Reading 15-20 minutes daily English (including spellings) 30-45 minutes per week Maths 30-45 minutes per week |
| Year 5 & 6 | Reading 20-30 minutes daily English (including spellings) 45-60 minutes per week Maths 45-60 minutes per week |

Communication with parents

Homework procedures provide opportunity for teachers and parents to express specific requirements, concerns or comments regarding the homework of individual children.

Those children who do not receive parental support with the completion of homework will be supported by the class teacher or the Teaching Assistant. Should a parent ask for support in helping their child the school will endeavour to support as much as possible.

Rewards for completion of homework

Each class teacher keeps a record of completed homework. This helps to monitor children's attitudes and achievement and helps inform discussions with parents. Children who complete homework are rewarded in line with the academy's Relationships and Behaviour Policy.