



Thurlaston CE (Aided) Primary
Teaching and living the Christian way of life

Homework Policy

Signed.....

January 2020

Homework Policy

As a School we are committed to :

- ◆ Teaching and Living the Christian way of Life.
- ◆ Providing a quality education for every child.
- ◆ Developing respect and consideration for all members of the community.

In line with our Christian ethos we endeavour and strive to do our best at all times and to encourage our pupils to do likewise. Homework is an important and natural extension of the learning that takes place at school. This policy is intended to outline the main practicalities related to homework and is designed to serve the interests of pupils, parents, staff and governors. Additional practical advice for parents is also available.

Why should children do homework?

- ✓ To help them consolidate, reinforce or extend learning that has taken place at school.
- ✓ To help develop the skills, confidence and motivation to learn effectively and independently.
- ✓ To involve their parents actively in their learning process.
- ✓ To prepare them for the next stages in their journey towards being lifelong learners.

What are the roles of children, parents and teachers in homework?

Children should take increasing responsibility for carrying out homework tasks as they progress through the school.

Parents should encourage children to see homework as an enjoyable experience and to develop a homework routine. A reasonably peaceful and suitable home learning environment should be provided. Parents are asked to encourage their child with the tasks set. Parents should discuss with their child's teacher any difficulties children are experiencing with homework. This may be done through the use of the homework diary.

Teachers should adhere to the schedules outlined in this policy and ensure that any homework set is appropriate to children's individual needs and that regular feedback is provided for pupils. Teachers should discuss with parents any failures to carry out homework and listen to, and work in partnership with parents to solve any difficulties.

What sort of homework should take place and how much time should be spent on it?

Children will receive homework appropriate to their ability and in particular SEN children and children receiving specific intervention may receive alternative homework to that set for the rest of the class.

Our school follows the previous government recommendations regarding the amount and type of homework which should be set by schools, as follows:

Age Group	Time spent	Type of homework
Class 1	1 hour per week	Reading, learning spellings, practising number work.
Class 2	1 hour per week	Reading, learning spellings, practising number work and/or literacy work.
Years 3 and 4	1 ½ hours per week	Reading, learning spellings, practising number work and/or literacy work and a topic or literacy project spanning half a term.
Years 5 and 6	½ hour per day and possibly longer at week ends	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills , sometimes through other areas of the curriculum. In addition, pupils should be encouraged to read widely and regularly.

For all year groups there may be occasionally work set on a topic such as some research.

What does this actually look like in practice?

The school has a planned homework programme that develops gradually from class 1 to class 4 as follows:

READING

Daily reading of books from school or home should ideally include a wide range and types of texts including fiction and non-fiction. Leaflets, comics and magazines should also not be undervalued as motivational reading sources. At all stages of development the richest reading experience develops from talking about texts with another individual.

Daily reading time guidelines are as follows:

Class 1: approx. 10 minutes

Class 2: approx. 10 - 15 minutes

Class 3: approx. 15 - 20 minutes

Class 4: approx. 15 - 30 minutes

SPELLING

Children in class 1 are gradually introduced to this process, starting with the learning of letter sounds. All children in classes 2, 3 and 4 have regular spellings to learn appropriate to their ability. The learning of spellings is most effectively carried out over several days with an emphasis on making the process fun where possible. Children are also sometimes tested on words previously learned so occasional revision of these at home is also worthwhile. Children should be able to make up a simple sentence containing each spelling in order to demonstrate their understanding of its meaning in context.

NUMERACY

Children in class 1 are gradually introduced to maths homework tasks through playing maths games. Children in classes 2, 3 and 4 are issued with regular number work which comprises the learning of key number facts such as number bonds and times tables which are tested regularly or work to support what has been previously covered in class. These tasks underpin the majority of maths tasks undertaken in school and have great importance. Again, ideally the emphasis should be on challenge and fun with learning being carried out over several days in order to aid memory and motivation.

OTHER TASKS / PROJECTS (For KS2 only)

These will be given out to children as the teacher deems necessary to support the work in school and help the children develop their skills. This will be communicated to parents using the child's homework diary.

Children in Key Stage 2 can expect to carry out a specific project related to other areas of the curriculum. School resources are available but pupils are also strongly encouraged to use libraries, the internet, museums and other resources from home and friends to support their learning. Increased independence in the carrying out of project work is expected as children get older.

How is communication and feedback about homework organised?

- All pupils have a reading record book and a homework diary, which is intended for use by both parents and teachers as a two-way dialogue about homework issues.
- Marks for tests are recorded, shared with pupils and with parents on request.
- All written homework tasks are marked appropriately and returned to pupils. However, research work which is to be built on in lessons will not be marked or returned to pupils.
- Homework will not be set in school holidays of 1 week or less. Holiday homework (except for revision in year 6) will include collecting/photos and research.
- Teachers will try to coordinate so that children in a family will either all have homework or not have homework but this cannot be guaranteed.

How is the homework policy monitored and evaluated?

- Parents' views regarding homework form part of the school's annual questionnaire to parents.
- Pupils' views regarding homework will be gathered from them using the annual pupil attitude survey and by representation from the school council.
- The Head teacher will monitor the quality of homework tasks through work scrutiny tasks.
- The Governors Leadership and Management Committee evaluates and reviews the policy in line with the Monitoring and Evaluation Timetable. This led to this review of the policy following an in-depth questionnaire on homework in 2019.

Appendix

Days work is issued and expected to be returned.

Number tasks

Number tasks are issued as follows:

Class	Day number task issued	Day returned/tested
1	Friday	N/A
2	Tuesday	Returned Monday
3	Friday	Friday
4	Friday	Friday

Spellings

Spellings are issued and tested each Friday.