

Homework Policy



2017/18



Aims of Handsworth Primary School

“Branching out, growing tall, hand in hand, one and all”

At Handsworth Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, which offers opportunities:-

- For everyone within the school to reach their full potential and develop self-worth, self-confidence, the ability to take responsibility for their own individual actions and resilience.
- For everyone within the school to have a sense of wonder, an enthusiasm for learning and help children to develop as independent thinkers and learners with enquiring minds.
- To encourage and develop a respect and understanding for others.
- To develop all partnerships, small and large, from the individual parent to the wider community and beyond to support children's learning.
- To give children access to a broad and balanced creative curriculum to attain the highest possible standards in relation to prior attainment through assessment and learning.

Equal opportunities

At Handsworth Primary school we believe that every child is entitled to equal access to the curriculum, regardless of race, gender, class or disability.

Inclusion

We are committed to promoting a learning and teaching environment for all that embeds the values of inclusive educational practices.

Through a child-centred approach, we aim to ensure that education is accessible and relevant to all our learners, to respect each other and to celebrate diversity and difference.

Rationale

In March 2012 the DfE stopped the guidelines for homework. Whilst homework is not compulsory, a balanced approach can support and have a positive impact on pupils' progress and attainment in learning. This homework policy has been reviewed with parents, pupils, class representatives and staff. It was agreed that quality homework is an important factor in children's learning which is further enhanced with a consistent approach adopted across the whole school.

The benefits of quality homework may include:

PUPILS

- A sense of responsibility for their own learning.
- An increased ability to study independently.
- Improved pupils self-confidence and motivation.
- Consolidation of class learning.
- Additional learning time.

PARENTS

- The opportunity for parents to share in their child's learning.
- The opportunity to show an interest in their child's education.
- Great opportunity to monitor their child's progress.

We believe that homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in numeracy and literacy and other curriculum areas. Thereby fostering an effective partnership between home and school.

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school which is reflected in the home-school agreement.

We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance, so that children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support whilst still allowing down-time.

The homework is structured to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectations so that by the time children reach year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for high school. Most of the homework is provided for completion over the course of the week, fortnight, or half term so that it can be made to fit around family lifestyles and commitments.

Features of Good Practice

After consultation it was agreed that :

Staff pupils and parents regard homework as integral in their learning.

Homework needs to be set and managed effectively.

Tasks are differentiated.

Homework reflects the differing learning styles.

Innovative practice can be used (e.g the use of ICT).

Homework clubs are used to support those children that may be having difficulty with homework.

Homework must be marked so pupils recognise their work is valued and contributes to the raising of attainment.

ROLE and RESPONSIBILITIES

Governing Body	<p>The governing body has:</p> <p>Delegated powers and responsibilities to the Teaching and Learning committee and the headteacher to oversee the development of this policy.</p> <p>Responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.</p>
Headteacher	<p>The headteacher will:</p> <p>Promote homework by raising its status and importance.</p> <p>Ensure that homework is built into teachers' planning.</p> <p>Provide supportive guidance for parents.</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate the implementation of homework and this policy.</p> <p>Review in light of parent, teacher, child feedback.</p>
Teachers	<p>Teachers must:</p> <p>Introduce homework books to capture and show progression.</p> <p>Integrate homework into their planning.</p> <p>Set appropriate homework.</p> <p>Set interesting tasks and activities.</p> <p>Use a variety of resources (eg including Purple Mash ICT).</p> <p>Mark and return homework.</p>
Parents / Carers	<p>Parents/Carers are asked to:</p> <p>Sign the home-school agreement.</p> <p>Provide a suitable space for children to concentrate.</p> <p>Establish a routine for completion of homework.</p> <p>Provide materials for homework (pens, pencils etc...).</p> <p>Make the experience pleasurable by providing positive feedback.</p> <p>Contact the school if they are unsure of some aspect of the homework, if their child has experienced some difficulty completing it, or needs further challenge.</p> <p>Contribute to the school evaluation so that we can continue to review and monitor the effectiveness of homework.</p>
Children	<p>Children are asked and expected to:</p> <p>Complete and hand in their homework on time.</p> <p>Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them.</p> <p>Contribute to reviewing the homework policy by giving their opinions (e.g. pupil questionnaire, school council, within class).</p> <p>Complete the homework to the best of their ability.</p> <p>Go to homework club or speak with class teacher before homework is due to be returned if they have a particular difficulty.</p>

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually. Any amendments that come from this review will be discussed with the Headteacher and ratified by the teaching staff and appropriate governing body committee.

Date of next review July 2019