



Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

Homework Policy

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff in consultation with parents and pupils and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

HOMEWORK - A DEFINITION

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

At Garlinge Primary School and Nursery we see learning at home as a valuable part of school life.

1. Our Aims:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Maths and English.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

2. The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Year R to Year 6.

3. Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school.

Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where **daily practise** is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spellings and times tables.

TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOMEWORK

The government recommend the following time allocations for homework. This is only a guideline, and whilst the school endeavours to follow these guidelines carefully, there may be times when these guides are modified or changed.

KS1 1 hour per week

Lower KS2 (Years 3 and 4) 1.5 hours per week

Upper KS2 (Years 5 and 6) 30 minutes per day

Homework for the Year groups

Foundation

In Foundation stage we do several things for homework, using the parents to support what we have been doing within the class.

Nursery and Reception have scrapbooks. In these we ask the children and parents to put things in that they have completed at home or things that they want to share with us. This information is used to aid our planning and assessment of the children. We also occasionally set questions and share things that we have been doing at school. Nursery and Reception take home library books that they have chosen to share with their parents. In Reception we also send home phonics cards to help the children to learn their sounds and build words. When children are ready they will be sent home with a reading book

Year 1 and 2

Spellings/Words

In year one the children take home letters and sounds, sounds cards in a blue book to learn at home and in year 2 children take home spellings to learn each week which they are then tested on. These are matched to the needs of all children.

Reading

Children are expected to read for at least 10 minutes a night. If a child finishes their book, and it is signed, their book will be changed that day and the child will be given a new book to take home.

Home School Learning Book

The children are given a task each Friday in their 'home school learning book'. These can be related to any area that the children are learning about in class. This provides parents with an opportunity to engage with their child's learning.

Year 3

One English or Maths piece of homework is given each week, usually on a Friday, to be returned midweek. All pupils are given a set of spellings to learn each for each week together with continuous times tables and reading practice for 10 -15 minutes per day.

Year 4

One piece of English and Maths each week. This may include a piece of topic work. All pupils are given a set of spellings to learn each week as well as times tables and daily reading practice for 15 minutes per day.

Year 5 and 6 - Maths

Once weekly via Maths set teacher, normally linked to recent learning and completed in a Maths homework book.

Topic and/ or English Homework

Topic – set as year group, linked to topics in class to match pupils' needs.

Daily Tasks – 10 minutes each

Times tables learning and practising.

Spellings learning and practising

Reading – either school scheme or free reader. Home Reading book to be signed as appropriate.

Expectations

High level of standard expected – teachers to liaise where required, should be as high level as presented in school.

Pencil case with full set of equipment:

Blue Berol/gel only (no black), ruler, coloured pencils, and scissors. Glue, dictionary, possibly a practical maths set.

Homework diary available to use at the discretion of teacher. (Year 6 currently use a set of spare books and expect the children to write in every day what they have that night as it is good preparation for Secondary school)

Clear dates are set so that children understand their role in completing homework.

4. Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work or in the diary, at a parents' meeting or at an open evening.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.

- To set homework that takes equal opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework and give feedback to pupils.

5. Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

6. Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework and returns it to school.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- To make sure the child has the necessary equipment to complete homework.

7. The role of the pupil

Pupils are responsible for undertaking any homework set and remembering to take home and return to school all books and equipment needed to undertake their homework and return it to the class teacher on time.

At Garlinge Primary School and Nursery we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework however; there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

8. Homework support facility

In order to support children's learning all children in Upper Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to complete homework during their lunch times in the Homework Club.

Also, the school's open door policy allows all staff to be made aware of any issues that may be significant to any child's ability to complete his or her homework.

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or maths set teacher.

Equal Opportunities:

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

Policy adopted by Governing Body _____

To be reviewed _____

Signed by Headteacher _____

Signed by Chair of Governors _____