



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 need not and should not get in the way of other activities that children do after school. We advise parents to talk to their child's class teacher to discuss any concerns they may have about the amount of homework their children receive. At Garlinge Primary School and Nursery homework is NOT viewed as a compulsory activity and pupils will not be sanctioned as a result of not completing homework.

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.

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 learning journey.
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 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.

Reception – A short period each day
KS1 (Years 1 and 2) – 1 hour per week
Lower KS2 (Years 3 and 4) – 1.5 hours per week
Upper KS2 (Years 5 and 6) – 2.5 hours per week

Homework in each Department

Early Years Foundation Stage

In Foundation stage pupils complete different activities for homework, using parents and other adults to support class learning.

Foundation pupils have scrapbooks in which children and parents add activities that they have completed at home or things that they want to share in class. This information is used to aid planning and the assessment of the children. Occasionally questions are set and learning is shared that the children have been learning at school. Home library books that children have chosen, to share with their parents. Phonics cards are also sent home to help children to learn their sounds and build words. Ideally these should be practised daily.

Key Stage 1 - Years 1 and 2

Spellings/Words

In Year One the children take home Letters and Sounds phoneme cards in a blue book to learn and in Year 2 children take home spellings to learn each week which they are then tested on. The spellings are in line with the Year 2 English curriculum.

Reading

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

Times Tables

By the end of Year 2 children are expected to know the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication and related division facts. Children are encouraged to learn these and may wish to practise these at 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.

Lower Key Stage 2 – Years 3 and 4

Weekly task

On alternate weeks pupils will be set a maths or topic/English based homework activity linked to their learning in class. Homework tasks will be completed in a homework book to be handed in on a set day each week. At the beginning of a new topic, pupils may be set a longer 'project style' homework task with a choice of ways to present their learning.

Daily tasks

Reading – Pupils will be expected to read their school reading book daily. It would be beneficial for them to discuss the text and read with an adult to help develop their understanding. They will also be encouraged to 'Read for Busters', every Wednesday (Reading for pleasure initiative).

Spellings – Pupils will be given a set of weekly spellings to learn and practise each day.

Times Tables – By the end of Year 4 pupils are expected to know all of their multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. Pupils will be expected to practise their times tables daily.

Upper Key Stage 2 – Years 5 and 6

Maths and English/Topic homework will be set on a two weekly cycle

Week one

Year 5 and 6 - Maths

A weekly piece of Maths homework will be set, usually linked to recent learning and completed in a Maths homework book.

Week two – The following week

English/Topic Homework

A piece of homework will be set, linked to the current class learning in pupils' topic activity.

Daily Tasks – 10 minutes each

Times tables (and linked division facts) learning and practising.

Spellings learning and practising

Reading – either school scheme or free reader. Home Reading book to be signed in Reading Record each night.

Each Wednesday – to participate in the Busters whole school reading for pleasure initiative.

Expectations

Homework should be completed to the same standard of class work in terms of content and presentation

Year 5 and 6 will be issued with a homework diary to assist them.

Clear dates are shared so that pupils 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 is differentiated and provides opportunities for all.
- 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. 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 pupils can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for pupils 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

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 Department Leader.

9. 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.

Homework Policy was adopted by Governing Body on 5th March 2019

To be reviewed 2022