

Homework Policy 2020– 2022

Rationale

The Governors and staff of Newbald Primary School believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. We believe it encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom as well as promoting independent learning thus encouraging the child to take great responsibility for their personal progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.

This policy is based on current government guidelines, which emphasise the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn. The guidelines include how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough whilst others feel there is too much! The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which we believe to be reasonable and manageable as well as in line with the guidance provided.

Guidelines

The Government has published recommended guidelines for the amount of time each week which pupils in primary schools should be spending on homework. This documentation recommends that:

- Children in Key Stage 1 should receive an hour a week of homework;
- Children in Years 3/4 90 minutes per week;
- Children in the final two years of primary school should receive 30 minutes' homework each day.

In our school, whilst we appreciate the value of homework, we believe it is equally important that children of all ages need time to develop through a wide range of activities such as play, participation in clubs, etc. It is therefore vital that children should not be overburdened with formal homework.

Homework is compulsory and is set throughout the school. However, the type of activity, the nature of parental support required, the duration of the homework and its frequency will vary according to the age and ability of the pupil.

The school has introduced a new learning tool to support homework during the current Covid-19 situation. Teachers can access Class Dojo alongside paper based homework that is sent directly to family devices and children can complete and return homework via this platform. This allows for remote learning to be in place for children should local lockdowns, self-isolation or other illness necessitate the need for work to be sent home to continue the learning process.

Aims

Homework is encouraged throughout the school. To be most effective, parents, carers, staff and the children need to understand its purpose.

- It reinforces and consolidates skills which have been taught in school and gives children the opportunity to practice what they have learnt;
- It develops in children a mature and independent attitude to their work so that they will become increasingly independent learners;
- It encourages self-discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning;
- It develops children's organisational skills.
- It promotes independent learning.
- It provides teachers with the opportunity to support and extend individual children;
- It enhances classroom learning by making use of sources of information or resources which may not be available in school.
- It sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school and future employment.
- It encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers;
- It encourages parents and carers to become involved with their children's learning

We value the support of parents/carers and believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school.

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

Roles and Responsibilities

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned on time. Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for children to complete. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the children's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher. Class teachers will follow the National Curriculum Guidelines to set age appropriate work and differentiate this within their class, therefore providing children individual learning opportunities taking account of their starting points.

The Headteacher will:

- Promote the school homework policy to staff, parents and pupils
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy

The teacher will:

- Set regular homework activities which will include both practical and written tasks
- Provide adequate and appropriate feedback to pupils through praise and encouragement, marking or testing (as appropriate)
- Set high expectations of pupils in completing homework (it will be the same expectation and high standard as expected in class).

Parents and Carers should support their children by:

- Providing a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, somewhere reasonably peaceful, with supervision if appropriate
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school in explaining how it can help raise attainment
- Providing activities that support the activities set by the teacher
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard
- Being actively involved in joint homework activities with the children
- Contact the children's class teacher if they have any questions or contact the Headteacher if they have queries of a general nature regarding homework. If parents wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete task as instructed
- Ask for help as appropriate
- Gain increased motivation and enjoyment through home learning
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Home learning should benefit teachers, pupils and parents by providing support and information to enable pupils to build confidence and make progress.

Homework Content

The main body of homework set in KS1 comprises the following activities:

- (1) reading
- (2) discussing
- (3) finding objects
- (4) playing games
- (5) learning sounds/spellings
- (6) acquiring sight vocabulary

The main body of homework set in KS2 comprises the following activities:

- (1) reading
- (2) maths
- (3) spellings
- (4) research
- (5) assignments
- (6) personal enquiry
- (7) discussing

Homework Schedule

Homework is given on a regular basis across the school following the schedule below. From time to time, homework may vary in response to a particular activity such as an educational visit, class project or STEM. Homework content may be set as a written piece of homework or may include reading, games and activities to reinforce Literacy, Maths or other skills. For older children homework may include completing work set, finding out information, preparing a presentation, designing and/or making something, trying out a simple scientific experiment and solving problems. Homework will be monitored and results recorded.

The gradual increase allows children to develop their skills and independence in completing homework and ensures that they are ready for the expectation of 45 to 90 minutes daily in Years 7 and 8.

Year Group	Guideline Amount	Tasks/Activities/Subject Areas: Our expectations are that:
Nursery		Children will receive short activities as appropriate.
Reception		Children will read daily. A maths task, sound and/or word work/spellings will be set. This should be worked on for a few minutes each evening.
Yr 1	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a curriculum based activity. Weekly spellings will be sent out in preparation for testing. Time spent on homework should be up to 15 minutes each evening.
Yr 2	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a curriculum based activity. Weekly spellings will be sent out in preparation for testing. Time spent on homework should be up to 15 minutes each evening.
Yr 3	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a curriculum based activity. Weekly spellings will be sent out in preparation for testing. Weekly times tables practice for test. Time spent on homework should be up to 15 minutes each evening.
Yr 4	1.5 hours weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a curriculum based activity. Weekly spellings will be sent out in preparation for testing. Weekly times tables practice for test. Time spent on homework should be up to 20 minutes each evening.
Yr 5	25 minutes daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete a curriculum based activity. Weekly spellings will be sent out in preparation for testing. Time spent on homework should be up to 25 minutes each evening.
Yr 6	25 minutes daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete a curriculum based activity. Weekly spellings will be sent out in preparation for testing. Time spent on homework should be up to 25 minutes each evening.

Feedback to Pupils

When children do work on their own it is important they receive feedback as quickly as possible. This may be through class work or through tests, or through individual comments from the teacher. Written feedback is very time consuming and is not possible all of the time. Other strategies e.g. reviewing homework in small groups, marking together, sharing their work with others etc. will be used.

Resources

- A reading record is used throughout school. Parents' signatures are required in this record. The purpose of this record is to aid good communication between home and school and to act as an aid to children, parents and staff.
- Children's families are invited to support and extend pupil homework. This support will include being involved in discussion, guidance or testing but it may also imply taking children to libraries or other appropriate venues.
- If a problem arises in the homework, staff must be available to discuss the matter with pupils, the day after homework is set. Parents will need to contact class teachers at the end of the school day to discuss any concerns.

Inclusion

All children will have access to homework or that is relevant to their current stage of learning.

Equal Opportunities

- All homework set provides suitable challenges to pupils of all abilities.
- No homework assignment shall compromise any pupil on the grounds of race, culture, class, gender or physical or mental ability.
- All pupils are entitled to prompt and appropriate feedback on completion of their homework

Monitoring and Evaluation

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the homework policy is efficiently and effectively implanted within their class. This will be monitored by the Headteacher in order to ensure homework is contributing to overall pupil learning and progress.