



HEATH HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. It consolidates the learning from that particular day. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. It is an essential part of good education. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; Children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out of school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. Children spend more time at school than at home during the week, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available inside and outside of school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop a good work ethos for the future;
- to organise their time efficiently.

Types of homework

We set a variety of homework activities. In Reception, Pre-Prep Year 1 and 2 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We also ask Reception, and Pre-Prep Year 1 and 2 children to learn spellings and complete work sheets in English or Maths which consolidate what they learned at school that day. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local library and the Internet.

In Prep Year 3 to 6 we continue to give children the kind of homework activities outlined earlier but we expect them to complete the tasks more independently. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Children in Prep Year 5 and 6 are also given homework on online platforms such as Atom Learning and 'Online 11+' to give them the opportunity to experience a variety of exam formats ahead of their 11+ exams.

Holiday homework is sent out before term ends. For Reception, Pre-Prep Year 1 and 2, a small topic based booklet is prepared. For older year groups, specific subjects or test papers are provided.

Amount of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We expect Reception, Pre-Prep Year 1 and 2 children to spend approximately 30 minutes a night doing homework; This includes reading with a parent. We expect children in Prep Year 3 and 4 to spend approximately 45 minutes per night on homework including reading and children in Prep Year 5 and 6 to spend approximately 1 hour per night in addition to reading. Homework should consist of regular reading practice at home, learning weekly spellings, learning times tables and finding out information for set projects.

We give all the children a school journal where they, or their parents, or the teacher record reading activities and any homework set and where parents and teachers make any relevant comments.

Pupils with special educational needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special educational needs, we endeavour to differentiate any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. Please see the Special Educational Needs Policy.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the kind of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should in the first instance contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Head Teacher.

Monitoring and review

Once returned, homework is reviewed, marked and stored in the child's box file which is sent home once full. If the child has difficulty with any aspect of the homework, the teacher will spend time helping the child to understand it. Each teacher will specify their particular homework style in their curriculum outline at the beginning of each term.

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to agree and then monitor the school Homework Policy. The Head Teacher pays careful consideration to any concern that may be raised by any parent.

This policy will be reviewed every year, or earlier if necessary.

Internal use only

Last reviewed	25 October 2023
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