

FIRTHMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL



Homework Policy

Date policy approved	February 2022
Review frequency	2 years
Review date	February 2024

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are 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. Children can benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

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 cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

We set a variety of homework activities. In the Early Years and at Key Stage 1, we give children books to take home and read with their parents on a daily basis. We give Key Stage 1 children the opportunity to purchase a Maths homework book based on calculation questions as part of their homework. These books can be purchased from the school office and are given out routinely each week on a Friday and to be returned by the following Wednesday. Any child who does not purchase a home work book will be given relevant multiplication facts or number bonds to learn. 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. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the local library, as well as the Internet.

At Key Stage 2, we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. The children in Keys Stage 2 are also given the opportunity to purchase a Maths homework book based on calculation questions. These books can be purchased from the school office and are given out routinely each week on a Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday. Any child who does not purchase a home work book will be given relevant multiplication facts to learn. We expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home. 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. Any homework completed is acknowledged and marked. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. Children in Key Stage 2 are asked to read regularly at home and to complete their reading logs which are then observed and commented on by a member of staff.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Google Classroom

Tasks and homework are added to Google Classroom for children to support remote learning. Timescales are set and monitored by the class teacher

Amount of homework

We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. In KS2 we expect children to read daily, either independently or with an adult. By Y6 children may have several pieces of homework each week to prepare them for the transition to secondary school. Children are always given several days in which to complete written tasks.

Inclusion and homework

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, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

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 and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort 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.

From Reception to Year 4 we ask parents to sign the home-school reading record on a daily basis. In Y5 and Year 6 we encourage children to take responsibility for recording their own reading.

If parents have any 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.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.