



Homework Policy 2022-2023

Date discussed with Staff:	Date discussed with Governors:
Date ratified by Governors:	
Date for review:	
Signed:	Headteacher
Signed:	Chair of Governors



Heygarth Primary School HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

Homework at Heygarth Primary School takes various forms depending on the age of the pupils. For example, for younger children it may be practicing reading and the learning of spellings and tables to support their learning in school, while for children in Upper Key Stage 2 it may be additional work to prepare them for the demands of Secondary School homework.

Our homework policy and practice incorporates the government recommendations and guidelines detailed in the DFE Homework Guidelines. We are also mindful that children have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. Our policy and practice therefore recognises the need for the children to have time to be children!

How will homework be set?

Teachers will set homework through Google Classrooms (classroom.google.com) Teachers will upload the details of the homework including the nature of the task and instruction for its completion, the due date and other instructions. The teacher will inform the class that homework has been set. The teacher may also attach other resources that may be required such as supplementary worksheets, links to website or videos etc.

Each student has a personal log in for the site that presents them with their personal calendar which shows them what tasks have been set, how long to the deadline for each task and so on.

Why have homework?

As a child progresses through primary school, homework has some or all of the following purposes depending on the age of the child and format of the homework:

- It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding learnt in school;
- It extends school learning, for example through additional reading;
- It provides opportunities for children to use out of school resources (e.g. books and Information Technology) found in the home or other places such as libraries;
- It fosters the partnership between the school and parents in achieving the aims of the school for the benefit of the child;
- It helps develop the confidence and self-discipline the child needs to study on their own.



Aims & Responsibilities

Mindful of the above purposes of homework, our aims in setting homework are to:

- Give children further practice of the skills and concepts learnt during the school day;
- Extend and support the learning experiences in school via reinforcement and revision;
- Enable parents to share in their child's education in partnership with the school;
- Provide progression towards independence and individual responsibility to prepare the children for transfer to secondary school;
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.

The school, parents and pupils each have responsibilities regarding homework. These are as follows:

School is responsible for setting homework appropriate to the child's age and ability;

Parents are responsible for providing their child with time, space, encouragement and support with any homework they have including hearing their child read and assisting in the learning of tables and spellings.

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.

Type and Quantity of Homework

We follow the government's recommendation that the main focus of homework for children in primary school should be on English and Mathematics, with other work added to the homework programme for older Key Stage 2 children.

English

There is an expectation on parents to hear their child read frequently at home to practice the skills of reading taught in school during the daily English lesson. A Home-School reading log is provided for parents to enable them to communicate to school any comments about their child's reading practice. These logs are checked by the teacher. The children will have two reading books: one is chosen by their teacher and will help them to learn to read and the other will be a love of reading book that will promote a love of reading.

Indeed the government's Homework Guidelines state that: "All primary school age children should either read to their parents or carers, listen to them



reading or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 10 to 20 minutes a day." [paragraph 20, page 9]

Mathematics

Throughout the school the children are asked to learn number bond patterns and times tables as appropriate for the age of the children. Other maths related homework tasks may also be given.

All children from Year 1 to Year 6 have a log-in for TT Rockstars and/or Numbots, an online learning resource where teachers will sometimes set maths homework for children but that children can also access from home whenever they choose.

Other Homework

Children may also be set a project for homework that will cover a range of curriculum areas that form part of the current theme. Parents will be notified of what homework is to be set, and reminded of our homework expectations regularly.

Homework Expectations

These will generally be:

- To submit via *Google Classroom* as instructed by the class teacher. If work set was preparation for a coming lesson they therefore may find this subsequent lesson difficult to complete if they have not done the preliminary task.
- Some children may prefer to have a paper copy of the homework. It is the parent or child's responsibility to ask for a paper copy of the homework and a homework book for the homework to be completed in. Paper copies will be available in every classroom but it is not the class teachers' responsibility to hand the paper copies to a child.
- To encourage parental support in building up a homework routine and training their child to do their homework with care and to pack completed work in their bags for the following day or agreed date of return.
- Where appropriate, to ask a child who has not completed a piece of homework that feeds into a subsequent lesson to complete it during the following morning's break-time.
- Parents will be contacted by the class teacher and subsequently Headteacher if homework is persistently not done.
- If there is a valid reason, (e.g. family crisis or illness) for a child being unable to do their homework, parents are asked to inform the class teacher at the first available opportunity, either in writing or verbally.



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.

- Year 1 & Year 2: 1 hour per week
- Year 3 & Year 4: 1½ hours per week
- Year 5 & Year 6: 30 minutes per day

When setting homework teachers will be mindful of the above time allocations and will distribute the homework accordingly. Where the homework involves learning spellings and/or tables the checking of this may take the form of a test set on a specific day of the week which will be notified by the class teacher (if one is routinely administered) in order that they can support the child in their homework by ensuring the homework learning task is completed by the day of the test.

Homework tasks set will generally practise skills the children have met during recent lesson activities and will be set on a Friday to be returned the following Wednesday, unless notified differently by your child's class teacher.

Children from the same class may receive different tasks that are matched to their ability and needs.

What homework will my child receive?

F2 (Reception)

- ~ 2 Reading books to practice reading;
- ~ Weekly phonics
- ~ Bi-weekly writing or maths skills practice.

Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & Year 2)

- ~ 2 Reading books to practice reading;
- ~ Weekly phonics/spellings (with a test on a date set by the teacher and results shared with parents);
- ~ Bi-weekly writing/grammar and maths skills practice;
- ~ TT Rockstars and/or Numbots

Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6)

- ~ 2 Reading books to practice reading;
- ~ Spellings sent home every two weeks (with a test every other Friday and results shared with parents);
- ~ Weekly maths skills practice;
- ~ Weekly English (writing/grammar) skills practice;



- ~ TT Rockstars and/or Numbots;
- ~ Topic homework (as and when required).

Homework Support Facilities

A Homework Club will be available where children may use school computing and library facilities and have access to a member of staff for guidance.

If a child is unsure of what they are required to do for their homework, they should always speak to their class teacher who be able to support them.

Homework Feedback

We recognise that pupils benefit from feedback on their homework as soon as possible. Therefore, much of the feedback may be verbal from the teacher to the child; the format and timing of the feedback depending on the nature of the homework and when it is assessed by the teacher.

With the older children, teachers will check that homework has been completed, and, depending on the task, children may 'class mark' or 'self-mark' their work under the direction of the teacher or teaching assistant. (Teachers do not always have time in the school day to mark individual children's homework.) This may be followed by general feedback to the class. Where appropriate, detailed marking of homework will be undertaken. Marked homework will be returned to children as soon as possible.

We recognise and will reward the children for their efforts in homework tasks in accordance with our school recognition system, i.e. being given a recognition award that will be displayed on the classroom wall and then sent home, when it is appropriate to do so. Constructive feedback from parents about their child's homework is also welcomed by the school. To enable parents to feed back about a child's reading we provide a Home-School Reading Log described earlier.

Absences

Children who miss lessons due to being absent from school, or being withdrawn from lessons to attend peripatetic instrument tuition, may be given the work they have missed as homework, if appropriate. Where children are absent for longer due to medical reasons (or have requested family holiday) it is not school policy to supply work to cover these periods as if children are well enough to undertake work they should attend school. There are, however, exceptions to this rule and the school reserves the right to decide whether this is acceptable or not.



Monitoring

Class teachers are responsible for the day to day monitoring of homework set and completed and any comments from parents.

The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the general monitoring of homework provision within their Year Bands.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's policy review programme.

The SLT is responsible for reporting to the governors about the quality of its implementation and its impact on standards. In the light of this, policy amendments may be made.

G. Lewis

September 2022