

Blagdon Primary School



Homework

Policy

Reviewed by	Headteacher	July 2018
Approved by	TLA	24 th Sept 208
Endorsed by	FGB	
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Homework Policy

1. 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 and sharing stories with their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2. Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The Department for Education states that 'homework is part and parcel of a good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. 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 in many areas. However, 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3. 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 the cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future;
- to prepare Year 6 for secondary transfer.

4. Types of homework

At Blagdon Primary School we have compulsory and non-compulsory homework expectations.

Compulsory

All Year Groups	Reading 5 x per week	<p>Children are provided with a school reading book and reading record.</p> <p>The school reading book must be read a minimum of 3 x per week. The other 2 reads can be anything of the child's or parent/carers choosing, e.g. recipes, newspapers, instructions or any other book that interests them.</p> <p>Each read must be signed by an adult or older sibling.</p> <p>The teacher/LSA will collect the reading record, mark and record. If a child has not read the 5 times, provision will be made during school lunch hours.</p>
<p>Reading is a key life skill that is needed in every area of the curriculum. We want to inspire a love of reading at Blagdon. To encourage this we will offer rewards and fun incentives.</p> <p>Children will receive weekly house points for successfully completing 5 reads. They will also receive 100% reading certificates at the end of term if they have completed 5 reads every week.</p> <p>Children may be offered bingo reading challenges to complete over a term to encourage reading a range of genres.</p>		
Year R	Phonics	Phonics sounds and key words learnt in class will be sent home for the children to practise.
Years 1 to 6	Spelling	<p>Children will be sent home with spellings or spelling rules to learn. These will form the focus of spelling lessons. The children may be tested on their spellings or they may be asked to use the spellings in sentences dictated to them.</p> <p>The key to becoming a successful speller is learning the rules and applying them.</p>
Years 3 to 6	Multiplication Tables	Children will be set tables to learn. They will take part in tables tests and try to achieve progress through our tables clubs.
<p>The learning of times tables is key. If children do not have quick recall of table facts, it can limit and slow down their learning in other strands of maths.</p> <p>The Government have introduced national testing of times tables at the end of Year 4. This is being trialled and tested in a sample of schools and will become mandatory in June 2020.</p>		
Years 5 to 6 FROM JANUARY	Revision	<p>Children will bring home books in January to help with SPAG (spelling, punctuation and Grammar), maths and English. These books are designed to take 10 minutes per task.</p> <p>The tasks they have completed, will be reviewed in school and form part of revision lessons.</p>

Non compulsory

Teachers may choose to set research or project homework. These are designed to complement topic learning in class.

Parents/Carers are also provided with a list of online resources that complement in school learning. Children will have the opportunity to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through these programmes.

5. Amount of homework

As children move through the school, we increase the amount of homework given. This prepares them for the move to secondary school.

6. Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We will ensure that tasks set are appropriate for the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

7. 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.

We ask parents to check the reading diary and to make comments and sign every time after hearing a child read at home.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

8. 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, when completing optional projects, our teachers expect 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 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. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet. School will only recommend safe websites.

9. Monitoring and review

The Headteacher is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy.

The Senior Leadership Team carry out an annual review and scrutiny as part of their monitoring timetable.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school's homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues.