



Fernhurst Primary School

Haslemere Road . Fernhurst . Surrey . GU27 3EA . Tel: 01428 653144
www.fernhurst.w-sussex.sch.uk

HOMework POLICY

Last Reviewed	Autumn - 2017
Next Review	Autumn - 2018



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INTRODUCTION

For the purposes of this policy, homework is anything that 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 children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Homework in our school takes various forms depending on the age of the pupils. 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 and get involved with non-school related activities.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

As a child progresses through primary school, homework will have 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.

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 learning needs.

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

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.

There is an expectation that all homework set will be completed and handed in on time. We offer support in school for the completion of homework during lunchtime on Thursdays in the form of a homework club and older children may face sanctions in class if they persistently fail to complete tasks and submit them on time.

Government guidelines on homework give a broad indication of the type of activities and how much time pupils of different ages might reasonably be expected to spend on homework.

For children at primary schools the guidelines are:

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

However, the guidelines emphasise that it is more important that homework helps your child to learn than whether it takes a certain amount of time. The guidelines encourage schools to plan homework carefully alongside the work children do at school, and to make sure that all activities are appropriate for individual children.

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The Government's guidelines for schools Homework: Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools can be read in full on the DfES Standards Site. There are a number of key points for parents to note.

How much homework?

Children should not be expected to spend significantly longer on them than the guide times set out above.

Activities may not take as long as the guide times: that does not matter at all as long as they are useful.

Schools and teachers are expected to organise homework carefully so that children are not expected to do too much on any one day.

What sort of activities should children be doing?

All homework activities should be related to work children are doing at school.

However, homework should not always be written work. For young children it will largely be:

- ☑ reading with parents or carers
- ☑ informal games to practice mathematical skills

For older children, including children at secondary school, homework may include:

- ☑ reading
- ☑ preparing a presentation to the class
- ☑ finding out information
- ☑ making something
- ☑ trying out a simple scientific experiment
- ☑ cooking

At Fernhurst we have agreed that homework should be made up of the following activities:

English:

Daily reading
Weekly spelling

Maths:

Weekly times tables
Weekly Sum Dog challenge

In addition to this, for each topic, there will be a three activities that will need to be completed by the child during the duration of the topic. Children will have a choice of 9 activities to choose from. These will then be displayed at the end of each topic and photographed with a thank you for parental support, which will be published in the newsletter.



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Suggested homework timetable:

Homework will be set on Tuesdays.

Year group	What	Timings
R	Daily Reading Topic choices	10mins 1 over the unit of work (2 per half term)
1 - 2	Daily reading Weekly Spelling/phonics Weekly Times tables Topic choices	10 minutes 15 minutes 5 minutes 2 over the unit of work
3 - 4	Daily reading Weekly Spelling/phonics Weekly Times tables Weekly Sum Dug Topic choices	10 minutes 20 minutes 5 minutes 20 minutes 3 over the unit of work
5 -6	Daily reading Weekly Spelling/phonics Weekly Times tables Weekly Sum Dug Topic choices	15 minutes 30 minutes 5 minutes 30 minutes 3 over the unit of work

HOMEWORK SUPPORT FACILITIES

Parents are invited to make teaching staff aware of any issues that may be significant to any child's ability to complete his or her homework. In order to support children's learning, all children have the opportunity to complete homework at a lunchtime club, supported and run by a member of staff.

HOMEWORK FEEDBACK

Pupils benefit from feedback on their homework as soon as possible after it is submitted. Some of the feedback (particularly to younger children) may be verbal from the teacher to the child. 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. This may be followed by general feedback to the class. For other tasks teachers or teaching assistants will mark and/or provide written feedback to the child.

We recognise and will reward the children for their efforts in homework tasks in accordance with our school rewards system, i.e. with stickers, house points or as part of sharing assembly, when it is appropriate to do so.

To enable parents to feed back about their child's reading we provide Home - School reading records.

ABSENCES

Where children are absent due to medical reasons, it is **not** school policy to supply work to cover these periods, as the children should be able to attend school if they are well enough to undertake work.

There are, however, exceptions to this rule and the school reserves the right to decide whether this is acceptable or not.



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MONITORING

Class teachers are responsible for the day to day monitoring of homework set and any comments from parents. The Headteacher and Governors are responsible for the general monitoring of homework provision within school.