



North Park Primary School

Homework Policy

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Rationale

At North Park Primary School we believe that homework is an essential part of pupils' learning. We also believe it is important for children to have a balance between learning outside of school, so that they learn from work which is formally provided by school as well as from taking part in out of school activities, clubs and family life. Therefore our homework policy is designed to strike a balance between an opportunity to practise, apply and extend key skills and time to enjoy other experiences.

Where homework is set, it is designed to reinforce and extend learning and to generate an interest in young people strengthening their skills, knowledge and confidence and learners. We hope all 'out of school' learning helps spark interest and enjoyment, and helps children to form good habits from the beginning of their school life, that they can then take with them as they enter the next phase of their education. We do not wish for homework to be seen as an onerous task, but rather an activity that has worth and forms part of daily routines for children.

Definition

Homework is defined as work set by the teacher to be done at home, either by the child alone or with the support of a parent or carer, or other family member. The main focus of homework will be key skills in numeracy and literacy, with occasional tasks to extend and enhance learning across other areas of the curriculum.

Aims

At North Park Primary School we appreciate how important the links between home and school are, and the need for us to work together to ensure a good education for all children. It is for this reason that we believe that it is important that children have homework set to extend learning, enhance and reinforce skills and understanding, and allow children to consolidate and improve their skills further.

Through the provision of homework we aim to:

- raise standards, particularly basic skills in Maths and English
- create a sound partnership between parents and teachers with regard to children's learning
- consolidate/reinforce pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding of work covered in class
- improve pupils' attitudes to learning and independent learning skills.

Expectations

Homework will involve the following activities:

Reading – we believe this is the most vital part of homework children are set, as it impacts on skills and learning cross the whole curriculum.

- For younger children this will begin with learning and practising phonics (sounds) and sharing picture stories, before progressing on to phonics-based reading materials.
- In addition younger children (Nursery up to Year 2) have the opportunity to take home a 'Bedtime Stories' pack each week – these are stories to share at home and this is designed to foster a love of reading and enjoyment in children. Packs should be returned each week to be swapped.

- As children's reading skills progress they will read from a range of books in school, then be expected to 'quiz' on these books using the Accelerated Reader programme in school
- We ask for a minimum of 3 times per week practise – ideally every day, as little and often is an excellent model and helps children form good habits.
- As children become more confident readers, homework may also include activities to reinforce vocabulary skills in upper Key Stage 2.
- Reading diaries should be used to record reading at home and be signed by parents.

Maths tasks – weekly tasks to support learning undertaken in school

- Number and counting activities in Reception and Year 1 – a short activity to reinforce work done in class; this may be practical in nature
- Key facts and multiplication tables from Years 2 to 4 – activities to help learn and reinforce key number and multiplication facts that children need to learn and become fluent in
- Maths problems and calculations in Years 4, 5 and 6 – work that will help children apply skills learnt in class
- Maths learning can also include online programmes; *Maths Seeds* for children in Reception and Year 1 and *Mathletics* and *Times Tables Rock Stars* from Year 2 upwards. Children will be given log ins. We recommend approx. 10-15 minutes on these activities, so children are not exposed to too much screen time at home.
- Tasks (unless practical) will be done in homework books

Occasional other tasks

- On occasion, children may be given tasks related to other curriculum areas – challenges or puzzles, or something to research or find out. These tasks are less formal in nature and seek to extend children's curiosity and develop engagement with the curriculum. This may involve a discussion or 'talk' based activity that teachers ask parents to undertake.

Year 6

- In Year 6 children will be set additional tasks to help them prepare for the statutory assessment tasks they undertake in May each year. This includes work on revision and short, regular tasks related to work done in class. The work done in Year 6 is therefore often more frequent than in other classes and will help children prepare for the more demanding homework they will encounter as they move into secondary school.

Timings

As a rule we will try to ensure homework follows a regular routine for children and for you as families; we aim to stick to these routines, other than in unforeseeable circumstances (e.g. staff absence or events in school which necessitate a change). We aim to alert parents to any changes. In general, homework;

- Will be set each week
- Will come out to children **every FRIDAY**
- Should be returned **every WEDNESDAY**
- **Reading** should be done at a minimum three times each week and reading books should be brought into school **every day**. This allows us to hear children read in school, change books, support children to quiz and manage regular changing of books.
- Bedtime story packs should also be returned every Wednesday.
- **Year 6** – more regular short tasks, particularly closer to SATs, and pupil and parents will be informed when homework should be returned (wherever possible a reminder text will be sent)

Teachers

In setting and marking homework, teachers will:

- plan homework as an integral part of their curriculum planning
- give reasonable time for its completion (including time in school to complete tasks if homework is not returned)
- match tasks to the abilities of the children
- ensure homework is marked in line with the school's marking policy (this may be done as a class, to go over work and address misconception, or individually)
- provide feedback on pupil their progress to parents.
- provide additional guidance for parents as part of termly curriculum letters, on how/when homework should be completed, including web links, etc.

Parents

At North Park Primary School we recognise the importance of developing effective partnerships between parents and children with reference to children's learning. Parents will:

- be provided with additional guidance to support learning at home and to help children with homework tasks;
- be encouraged to support the school's homework policy when signing the home school agreement;
- be given feedback on how children are doing with homework through marking, during parents' meetings and in annual reports.

Monitoring

The Headteacher will regularly review the Policy and Guidelines on behalf of the Governing Body, alongside the whole staff team, and will monitor the quality of homework provision through planning and work scrutiny.

HOMework GUIDELINES

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are grateful for your support and encouragement in helping your child with homework tasks. Homework is designed to support and extend activities done in class. To help you support your child we have developed these simple guidelines.

- Reading should be undertaken regularly (3x week minimum)
- Homework will be **set on FRIDAY**
- Homework should be **returned on WEDNESDAY**
- Year 6 pupils may have additional tasks for revision purposes
- Homework should be done in pen or pencil, not felt tip.
- Try to encourage your child to attempt any activities that s/he finds difficult - pupils are not penalised for incorrect answers.
- Homework will be closely monitored, and discussed in class.
- We recommend short sessions online – 10-15 minutes – to avoid excessive screen time
- If the standard of homework is not acceptable, children may be asked to repeat the activity again. If incomplete they will undertake the task in school.
- Homework should be returned **on/before** the designated date. If this is not possible please contact your child's teacher via letter/telephone to explain the reasons homework is incomplete.

Thank you for your support.

Please sign to acknowledge receipt of this information

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