



Hillbourne Primary School

Homework Policy

Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important as it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home the tasks covered in class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children and young people to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. 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 wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic & social development;
- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- promote a partnership between home & school in supporting each child's learning;
- enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- help children develop good work habits for the future.

Schedule of Homework

The guidelines for homework children receive are set by government and are as follows:

Reception	Building to 10 minutes per day
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.

Children should not be expected to spend significantly longer on homework than the guide times above. It does not matter if activities do not take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful. We endeavour to organise homework activities so that children do not receive too much on any one night.

Teachers will advise parents on homework each week and provide guidance as to how they can best support their child in each task. Homework tasks will encourage full mastery of the basic skills in reading, writing and maths but may also be linked to wider curriculum areas.

Subject	Homework
Reading	Reading 5 times a week - a minimum of 10 minutes each day. EYFS/KS1 –Phonics book, as well as library book. KS2 – book band or library book.
Spelling	Spelling shed practise – assignment set based on current spelling unit.
Maths	Regular Times Table Rock Stars practise – 5 minutes per day. Arithmetic worksheet – focussed on key skills that have been taught in class.
Wider curriculum – optional 3x a year – one per term	A choice board with 1 task linked to each area of learning within the wider curriculum for that term. Children to choose what they would like to complete and have an opportunity to share it with the class when they bring it into school and for it to be displayed. This could include: making models, creating a poster/leaflet/video/power point, baking something, painting a picture/drawing.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

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. If a child has special educational needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way and/or set homework which relates to their Individual Education Plan.

When necessary, we will adapt homework expectations for children with special educational needs in discussion with parents.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in supporting their children’s learning and we ask parents to encourage their child to practise their reading, writing and number skills on a daily basis.

Parents are encouraged to;

- ✓ read a bed time story
- ✓ visit the library
- ✓ talk about their own learning
- ✓ visit places of interest
- ✓ play board games to develop cooperation, turn taking and resilience
- ✓ help children to develop a daily pattern of practising their skills each day

If parents have any problems or 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 Deputy or Headteacher.