



Keresforth Primary School

Homework Policy

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RATIONALE:

At Keresforth Primary School we believe that spending time at home doing work to support their studies in school enhances children's attainment.

AIMS:

Through the setting of homework, which relates to pupils' work in school we aim:

- a) To reinforce or consolidate children's skills, knowledge and understanding and improve their academic performance
- b) To develop in children a mature and independent attitude to their work so that they will become increasingly independent learners.
- c) To develop children's organisational skills.
- d) To enhance classroom learning by making use of sources of information or resources which may not be available in school
- e) To promote partnership and cooperation between parents, carers, teachers and pupils

GUIDELINES:

The Government has published recommended guidelines for the amount of time each week which pupils in primary schools should be spending on homework. This documentation recommends that children in Key Stage 1 should receive an hour a week of homework; those in Years 3 and 4 90 minutes per week; and pupils in the final two years of primary school should receive 30 minutes' homework each day.

In our school, whilst we appreciate the value of homework, we believe it is equally important that children of all ages need time to develop through a wide range of activities such as play, participation in clubs, etc. It is therefore vital that children should not be overburdened with formal homework.

ORGANISATION:

Homework is compulsory. It is set throughout the school. However, the type of activity, the nature of parental support required, the duration of the homework and its frequency will vary according to the age and ability of the pupil

The main body of homework set in KS1 comprises the following activities:

- (1) reading
- (2) discussing
- (3) finding objects
- (4) playing games
- (5) learning sounds/spellings
- (6) acquiring sight vocabulary

- It should largely consist of daily reading with parents and carers, looking at and sharing books together.
- It is our belief that our children should be listened to, or if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 10 minutes a day.
- Other English homework may sometimes include spellings. In maths, homework will include learning of number bonds and times tables and small reinforcement activities as and when necessary.
- Whatever the homework, staff will encourage pupils to discuss their day's learning with their parents, whether this be an extra item or not.

The main body of homework set in KS2 comprises the following activities:

- (1) reading
- (2) maths
- (3) spellings
- (4) research
- (5) assignments
- (6) personal enquiry
- (7) discussing

- It should be differentiated to the needs of individual children where appropriate. Staff must also ensure that the purpose of the homework is made clear to pupils when it is set.
- In most cases at least two working days must be allowed for the completion of homework in the KS2. KS2 children will be given a clear date for handing in homework.
- KS1 and KS2 children will take home a reading book and their home/school reading link book so that parents may hear children read and discuss their children's reading with them.
- Maths homework for KS2 will be online using My Maths. All children will have a personal log in and password in order to access this.
- To aid children, parents and staff, a regular pattern of homework will be developed in each class e.g. spellings on Tuesday, tables on Thursday, etc.

However, as some tasks in order to be meaningful are linked to aspects of the curriculum, there may be some irregularity in the days on which they are set.

- These further activities, given usually to older pupils, will gradually increase in their demands. Again, this will be differentiated where appropriate and will include:
 - a) finding out information
 - b) reading in preparation for lessons
 - c) preparing oral presentations

FEEDBACK TO PUPILS:

- When children do work on their own it is important they receive feedback as quickly as possible. This may be through class work or through tests, or through individual comments from the teacher. Written feedback is very time consuming and is not possible all of the time. Other strategies e.g. reviewing homework in small groups, marking together, sharing their work with others etc. will be used.

RESOURCES

- A reading record is used throughout school. In Key Stage 2, both adults or children may complete this with date and pages read.
- Pupils' families are invited to support and extend pupil homework. This support will include being involved in discussion, guidance or testing but it may also imply taking children to libraries or other appropriate venues.
- If a problem arises in the homework, staff must be available to discuss the matter with pupils, the day after homework is set. Parents will need to contact class teachers either before the start of school or at the end of the school day to discuss any concerns. Teacher will be unable to discuss issues after 8.45am due to their teaching commitments.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- All homework set provides suitable challenges to pupils of all abilities.
- No homework assignment shall compromise any pupil on the grounds of race, culture, class, gender or physical or mental ability.
- All pupils are entitled to prompt and appropriate feedback on completion of their homework

RECORD-KEEPING

- Teachers will keep records of which pupils return their homework so that they can feed this into parents evening meetings

CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS

- Homework may refer to areas of the curriculum other than the core subjects. However, an emphasis on English and Maths work is essential.

HOMEWORK CLUB

- For children who need access to IT or additional time and support, we offer a homework club one lunch time per week.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Staff must contact parents in writing to ensure an adult will be present for homework assignments which are likely to incur danger, such as:
 - a) the use of kitchen substances in scientific investigation
 - b) floating and sinking experiments
 - c) road traffic surveys