



Simonside Primary School

Homework Policy 2016 -2017



The Homework Policy has been reviewed in the light of comments retrieved from parental questionnaires and following staff discussion.

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/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents/carers can help with homework by hearing their child read books at home.

Rationale for Homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education. At Simonside, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our school is to encourage children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework can play a vital role in helping to raise a child's level of attainment. However, homework should not prevent children from taking part in various out of school clubs and other organisations that play an important part in their lives.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- To encourage cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To encourage pupils to explore other aspects of the curriculum independently, ie through topic work.
- To consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons.
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of Homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

In Reception, children will get a reading book to take home every week. We ask that parents/carers hear their child read at least 3 times a week and share the book with them. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is the child reading to parents or to their teachers. In addition, the children will be given words to read and spell and will be given one piece of either Literacy or Maths to do which will be consolidating work they have done at school.

In Key Stage 1, the children will be given a reading book to take home every week. Parents are encouraged to hear their child read every day for about fifteen minutes. It is also recommended that they share other books with their children. In addition children will be given weekly spellings to learn at their level and one piece of Literacy or Maths homework which will be consolidating work they have done at school.

In Key Stage 2, year groups 3 to 5 are given 'Creative Homework'. Class teachers will prepare a grid of approximately 12 activities that can be related to all areas of the curriculum, and linked to the children's class topic. Children are invited to complete a given number of activities (depending on ability) over the half-term and are given regular 'check-points' so that the quantity and quality of homework can be assessed by the class teacher. More able children are challenged further through more demanding activities provided on the homework grid. In year 6, literacy and maths work will be sent home weekly that is consolidation work on what has been taught in class. All children are praised with 'Smilies' for completing their homework on time and to a good standard.

All year groups in Key Stage 2 will be given weekly spellings to learn. They will also be provided with a Home Reader. Parents are encouraged to hear their children read in LKS2. For the older children, we ask that parents encourage their children to read at home, and provide them with the space and quiet to do so.

Homework is always acknowledged and if it is completed well, will be acknowledged and praised.

Inclusion and Homework

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, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. In KS2 a Homework Club is held at lunchtimes in order for children to have access to resources, teacher support, or simply the space and quiet to work effectively.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. Parents and carers can support their child by

providing a good working space at home and by discussing the work they are doing. Parents are provided with regular feedback regarding how their child is managing their homework through assertive mentoring meetings.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should contact the child's class teacher.

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 our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Teachers will also recommend websites that might be useful in supporting their learning at home.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually.