



GRAYSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Church of England (Aided)

# Homework Policy

| Policy schedule                               |             |
|---|-------------|
| Written                                       | Autumn 2022 |
| Date shared with staff, governors and parents | Autumn 2022 |
| To be reviewed:                               | Autumn 2024 |

## **Introduction**

“Homework” is any work or activity completed outside lesson time, either alone, with parents, siblings, friends or others.

At Grayswood CE Primary School we believe that education is a life-long process. A child’s education does not cease when they leave our school premises and learning at home is an essential part of good education.

We believe that homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in Mathematics, English and other curriculum areas, helps raise the level of achievement of individual pupils, provides opportunities for parents/carers and children to work together and, thereby, foster an effective partnership between home and school.

However, we recognise that all children need leisure time; time to play, pursue interest outside of school and time to relax and focus on what they really enjoy. We hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing ‘down time’ and play.

## **Aims**

This homework policy is designed to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers;
- extend and support learning.

We believe that homework benefits pupils by:

- reinforcing concepts and skills taught in school;
- extending learning in school;
- enabling pupils to revisit aspects of the curriculum;
- encouraging children to read to their parents/carers;
- providing opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- helping to demonstrate to children that learning can take place in many environments;
- promoting learning at home as an essential part of good education;
- helping children to develop confidence, independence and the self-discipline needed for personal study in preparation for secondary school and beyond;
- supporting the development of independent learning skills, including the habits of enquiry and investigation.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **The role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to oversee the development of this policy;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

### **The role of the Headteacher**

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that homework is set in line with this policy;
- keep up to date with new developments with regard to homework;
- monitor and evaluate this policy.

## **The role of Teachers**

Teachers must:

- integrate homework into their planning;
- ensure the homework tasks are accessible on the school website;
- set tasks or activities in line with the policy;
- provide a range of homework tasks and activities which are purposeful and linked to classroom learning;
- differentiate homework tasks where necessary to ensure all children are able to access activities;
- explain when, what and how the work is to be done so that each child clearly understands.

## **The role of Parents /Carers:**

Parents/carers are asked to:

- support the school in explaining and valuing homework;
- establish a homework routine;
- read everyday with their child- this included discussing the text and asking open questions to develop comprehension skills;
- provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets;
- provide correct materials pens, pencils etc. and encourage neat presentation;
- be actively involved in the homework and support where required (particularly of younger children);
- go through the homework before their child starts and discuss the completed work when finished;
- discuss, encourage and praise their child's efforts;
- contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it;
- contribute to school evaluation so the school can monitor and evaluate its effectiveness.

## **The role of Children:**

Children are asked to:

- complete their homework by the set deadline;
- look after books and return them on the agreed dates;
- listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them;
- complete their homework using appropriate writing materials;
- take pride in their presentation and content;
- demonstrate a positive attitude and have a go at the homework tasks set.

## **Types of homework**

All homework tasks and activities are designed to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding in Mathematics and English and enhance cross curricular teaching.

## **Feedback**

Feedback needs to be given promptly and may be given in a variety of ways:

- Verbal response from parents or carers and teachers
- Class discussion
- Written response

## An overview of homework at Grayswood CE Primary School

From the Early Years simple games and reading with parents provides valuable opportunities for the practice/reinforcement of key skills in a supportive environment. As children get older, they need to develop the habit of regularly devoting short periods of time to personal study. All children are encouraged to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class.

Homework is set on a Friday and is to be returned on a Wednesday, unless the class teacher informs parents/carers of alternative arrangements. Activities are accessed via the Friday note on the class page of the school website and, for children in KS2, should be recorded in their homework books. Where it states that the approximate time allocation below, this includes activities such as practising spellings.

| Year Group | Approximate time allocation                             | Activities   |
|------------|---|--|
| Reception  | 5-10 minutes each day- this includes sharing books      | Daily reading- parents are encouraged to record in reading records<br>Early phonics reinforcement work   |
| Year 1     | 10-15 minutes each day – this includes sharing books    | Daily reading- parents are encouraged to record in reading records<br>Weekly spellings linked to phonics learning<br>Mathletics tasks<br>Topic research as appropriate   |
| Year 2     | 30 minutes per week<br>+ 10-15 minutes reading daily    | Daily reading- parents are encouraged to record in reading records<br>Weekly spellings linked to phonics learning/ spelling patterns<br>A short Maths task linked to classroom learning<br>Topic research as appropriate                       |
| Years 3&4  | 1-1 ½ hours per week<br>+ 15-20 minutes reading daily   | Daily reading to parents and/or independent reading<br>Weekly spellings<br>Tables / Number facts practice<br>Maths and English activity linked to classroom learning<br>Topic research as appropriate  |
| Years 5&6  | 1 ½ - 2 hours per week<br>+ 15-20 minutes reading daily | Regular reading<br>Weekly spellings<br>Tables/ Number facts practice<br>Maths and English activity linked to classroom learning<br>Topic research as appropriate<br>From the Spring Term, Y6 children will also have SATs revision as homework |

Reading with your child is the most important activity you can do. Reading is the key to all accessing all other areas of the curriculum and we place great emphasis on this in all year groups.

For children in Years 1-6, the school pays a subscription to the 'Mathletics' website and also to 'TTRockstars' and 'Spelling Frame' for those in Years 2-6. Please encourage your child to use these platforms as often as possible to enhance their recall of number facts. All children should have login details.

## **Expectations**

We strongly encourage all children to at least attempt the homework tasks set for the reasons outlined at the beginning of this policy. From our recent survey, the majority of parents were in agreement that homework is an important part of school life, helping to consolidate classroom learning and provide an opportunity to learn together. It is expected that homework will be presented neatly and using an appropriate pen/pencil, just as it would be in school.

## **Additional ways to support your child's learning:**

- visits to libraries, museums etc;
- cooking with them;
- taking your child swimming;
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games;
- watching informative TV programmes together;
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc;
- gardening and growing plants;
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use);
- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.

Remember: Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building!