



# Homework Policy

## 2023 - 2026

This policy was written by staff and approved by the Curriculum and Standards committee

In March 2023. It will be reviewed every three years or earlier if necessary.

Headteacher: P.Lyall

Chair of committee: J.Darmanin

Review: March 2026

## 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 to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

## Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning, as well as preparing them for secondary school and future life learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

## Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

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

## Amount 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. We set a variety of homework activities and the time expected to spend on them will increase as the children move through our school. Homework is set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday, individual classes may change these days to suit their class and will inform parents accordingly.

- **Reception:** daily reading, phonemes and word recognition. Spellings in the summer term only.
- **Year 1 & 2:** daily reading, spellings and a weekly curriculum-based task (20mins)
- **Year 3 & 4:** daily reading, spellings, times tables & weekly Maths or English task (25mins)
- **Year 5 & 6:** daily reading, spellings, times tables & weekly Maths and English task (30-45mins)

There will occasionally be projects linked to the class topic which will be set for the children to complete at home. These will take many forms and allow children and families to work together to produce a finished product that they can share and talk about in class. This extra work will usually take the form of research or bringing something in from home to share.

Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. House points or raffle tickets will be used to reward children who complete homework on time. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. Homework is expected to be handed in on time. Each class/phase have their own set day depending upon the decisions made within the class/phase. This information will be known to the parents and children within the class. There will be consequences for late homework in line with our behaviour policy. For example moving down the rocket or being asked to complete the tasks set in Homework club.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

## **Homework club**

We run a homework club every week on Mondays in our learning room. This is a drop in session available to all pupils at lunchtime from 12.30-1pm. Children can use an early lunch pass to have their school lunch before going to the club. Mrs Mason leads the club and will support children who need it.

## **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. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Pupil Centred Plans (PCP's). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

## **The role of parents**

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any 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 headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents should follow the school complaint procedure, this can be accessed via the Website

## **Use of IT**

The use of IT 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. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Some homework set may be Internet based. Through surveys we are aware that all children have internet access at home, therefore we do set homework in this way, in particular the use of My Maths and TTRockstars to support mathematical understanding. Parents are advised to always supervise their child's access to the Internet and ensure parental security settings are appropriate and up to date. Please refer to our KCSIE Online Safety Policy and/or our Remote Learning Policy for further information.

## **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way in which homework is organised in our school.

This policy will be reviewed in three years, or earlier if necessary.

Signed: J Darmanin -Chair of Curriculum Committee

Date: February 2023