

# Homework Policy

## Bushmead Primary School

### December 2024



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## **1. 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, parents and the children themselves to support their learning.

## **2. Rationale**

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.

One of the main purposes for homework is to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school.

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.

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, development and ability to learn. This includes participation in various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

Children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

## **3. Aims**

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 help pupils to progress towards individual responsibility.
- To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.
- To prepare children for secondary transfer.

## **4. Roles and responsibilities**

At Bushmead Primary School we have always recognised and valued the part parents and carers play in the education of their child. We also appreciate that children need time after school to relax and pursue their own interests.

### **4.1 The Role of Parents and Carers**

Parents/ Carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process.

Parents can support by:

- Continuing to encourage and support their child's learning, through showing interest and providing a reasonably quiet place in which the child can do their homework.
- Acknowledging effort and praising them when they have completed their work.
- Ensuring that work returns to school on the correct day.

#### **4.2 The Role of the School**

- To inform parents at the beginning of each academic year about homework timetables.
- To provide guidance for helping children at home.
- To keep a timetable so parents can work out a routine.
- To ensure that homework is marked and children receive effective feedback on how well they did.
- To make a note of next week's learning on each piece of homework.
- To ensure homework is differentiated to meet the needs of all children.
- To offer children an extra challenge task to complete if they wish.

### **5. 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. We set a variety of homework activities the vast majority of which either consolidate learning that has already happened in the classroom or prepares children for new learning that will happen the following week in the classroom.

In the Foundation Stage we give our children a 'Reading for Pleasure' book once a week to share at home with their families. Children also read a book that has been read three times in school prior to being sent home and is in line with the child's phonic knowledge and our school's adopted phonics programme 'Little Wandle.'

In Key Stage 1 children are given appropriate books to access at home and we give guidance on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. Year 1 Children read a book has been read three times in school prior to being sent home and is in line with the child's phonic knowledge and our schools adopted phonics programme 'Little Wandle.'

Each week children are given spellings to learn which supports them in their weekly spellings tests. This is in line with the National Curriculum for year 1 and 2. The class web pages provide all information on home learning as well as information on the current learning in class.

In Key Stage 2 Home learning will focus on the essentials of reading and spellings which underpin every area of learning in school. The children will have books to bring home to read with you or independently depending on their level. As well as this, children will have weekly spelling lists which will be set via their class webpage and children can access TT Rockstars via their individual login.

Home learning is monitored and the expectation is that all children complete the set amount each week with spelling and times tables tests happening within school.

### 5.1 Amount of Homework

The amount of time spent on homework is less important than the quality of tasks set and the way that they are planned to support learning.

Years 1 & 2 Home learning recommendation for the greatest impact;

- Spelling. (5 mins daily)
- Reading. (At least 5 times weekly)

- Years 3 & 4 Home learning recommendation for the greatest impact;

- Spelling. (5 mins daily)
- Access to Spelling Shed-linked to weekly spellings.
- Reading. (At least 5 times weekly)

- Years 5 & 6 Regular weekly schedule

- Spelling. (5 mins daily)
- Access to Spelling Shed-linked to weekly spellings.
- Reading. (At least 5 times weekly)

### 5.3 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' Education Health and Care Plan (EHCPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

### 5.4 Use of Information Communication Technology (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. 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. The class teacher may often direct parents and children to specific educational software that is available, such as Spelling Shed and TT Rock stars.

Teachers recognise that some children may not have access to the internet or other ICT equipment at home, and homework is differentiated to cater for that possibility

## 6. Monitoring arrangements

If parents / carers 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.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the C and S committee of the governing body. 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 homework is organised in our school.

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

It will be approved by the C and S committee.

<b>Version:4</b>	20/12/24	
<b>Written by:</b>	Mark Leonard	<b>Date:</b> 20/12/24
<b>Last reviewed by governors:</b>	Spring 1 2025	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	20.12.25	