

Burbage C of E Infant School  
Policy Statement

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Policy Date: March 2016  
Policy to be reviewed: March 2019

### **Definition of Homework**

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are requested to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

### **The aims of this policy are**

- To capitalise on opportunities to enhance children's learning
- To give opportunities to practise skills and apply their learning
- To help parents support their children's learning
- To ensure homework reinforces learning in school and extends and supports the learning experience
- To ensure parents have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and children
- To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences at an appropriate level

In an Infant School teachers recognise that pupils who have spent a busy, structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the fact that children need time to pursue their own out of school hobbies and interests.

However we feel that homework activities should be introduced not only to enhance learning but to allow the children to feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed outside the school environment and that their efforts should be recognised and praised at home and at school. A joint study by the Education Endowment Foundation and the Sutton Trust found that children who took part in regular homework, 3 to 5 times a week, for no more than an hour each session, made potential gains of an additional 5 months progress over a year (Higgins et al, 2012).

We hope parents will be willing and able to give active support to ensure that:

- They make it clear to children that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.
- The activities should be valued and undertaken regularly and at a time when the child is best able to concentrate.

- Homework is perceived as a shared activity and should be planned around other activities to avoid clashes.
- Children should be encouraged and praised for their efforts.

### **Whole School Principles**

- We expect children to complete approximately 60 minutes of homework over the course of each week (for example, 10 minutes a day, six times a week, or 20 minutes, 3 times a week). This is flexible so it can fit around other family activities and routines.
- Each year group will have guidelines in place for homework activities
- Parents will be informed of these arrangements at the beginning of the academic year
- Staff will provide a range of tasks related to the curriculum and suitable for the age and/or experience of the child
- Staff will ensure that there are written instructions for specific tasks, to support the children in their efforts at home
- Information from Curriculum Evenings held in school will be sent home to enable those who are unable to attend access to this information
- Although we feel homework is very valuable, and we will endeavour to secure all parents' support, we will never punish children for not completing homework.

### **Homework will include:**

- **Reading** – reading practice is vital for early readers. Short regular sessions are most effective. At first children will focus on phonetic decoding, and their reading will be supported with games and activities to practice these skills. Once children are able to decode effectively, and are reading their book accurately, it is important their understanding is checked through questions. Every child will bring a 'red sticker' book, a reading book and Home-School Contact Book to enable dialogue between teachers and parents. Other Literacy related homework includes learning words for sight vocabulary, practising sounds and letter formation and learning spellings.
- **Numeracy** – Children will receive regular numeracy activities. This may be a practical activity like cooking or problem solving.
- **Targets** – Children will receive regular targets in numeracy and literacy. These will usually allow children to practise and master key skills. Teachers will share with parents ways to help support their children with their targets.
- **Computer Based Activities** – As a school we regularly purchase website subscriptions for children to support their learning at home, eg “Purple Mash”, “My Maths” and “Phonics Play”.
- **Other Activities** – Sometimes children may be asked to complete other activities, for example to make something, or to complete a holiday diary. The children may also be asked to bring in objects, pictures or information related to a topic or theme, to learn a poem or words for a class assembly.

### **We will support parents by:**

- Discussing homework at the regular curriculum evenings

- Keeping them informed about their child's targets, and letting them know whether they have been achieved
- Providing sessions to help parents understand our curriculum and how they can help

### **Monitoring and Review**

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by the Headteacher and the Values committee. It will be reviewed at least every three years.

Adopted by Governors: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: (*Chair of Governors*) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_