



Burbage C of E Infant School



Homework Policy

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The governing body adopted this policy on: 4.12.23

Chair of Governors:

Signed:

Date:

Contents

1. Definition of homework.....	2
2. Aims of this policy.....	2
3. Whole school principles	3
4. Homework.....	3
5. How we support parents	4
6. Monitoring and review	4

1. 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.

2. Aims of this policy

- 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.

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.

3. 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 presentations 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.

4. Homework

- **Literacy** – 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. As well as learning to decode effectively, it is important that their understanding is checked through questions. Every child will bring a a phonics book, a 'reading skills' book and a reading record book. We encourage parents to record their child's reading at home in the reading record

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.

- **Topics** – Children will receive regular a variety of homework activities based around topics in school. This will include numeracy activities and may be a practical activity like cooking or problem solving.
- **Computer-based Activities** – Teachers will share links to relevant website based learning as appropriate.
- **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.

5. How we support parents

- Discussing homework at parents' evenings and curriculum presentations;
- Keeping them informed about their child's progress;
- Providing information to help parents understand our curriculum and how they can help at home.

6. Monitoring and review

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