

Discovery Federation

Homework

Policy

Updated: March 2021

Introduction

Homework is anything that 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 children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is 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. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in Schools', where homework was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our Federation of Schools is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that 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. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

As homework plays such an important part in your child's education we will report on homework half termly as part of your child's attitude and effort tracker. The key component of all our home links to reading as believe reading is the key to children's future success. This will feed into the whole school reward system.

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 a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth; with a key focus on reading and developing children's love of reading through our Page Turners.

- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future;
- to increase awareness of the continuous nature of education.

Types of homework

We set a variety of homework activities. Across the whole school, we encourage the children to read daily and develop a love of reading by giving them books to take home to read with their parents to both progress and consolidate skills and to also read for pleasure. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit and enjoyment from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to practise their sounds and for KS1 & KS2 parents to practise mathematical tables as part of their homework.

Homework will be handed out on a Friday and collected in on a Tuesday. If there are any issues with homework, Monday can be used to seek advice/support from the class teacher. Our homework comprises of reading, phonics and the practice of basic skills. Children may also be set tasks from our online learning platforms such as bug club, spelling shed or Times Table Rockstarz etc. If you do not have access to electronic device these can be loaned from school.

Amount of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this will mainly include reading with a parent daily. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15–20 minutes per night on homework the majority of this being reading to parents, spellings and mental maths work. In years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night.

All children will be given a reading record where they or their teacher or classroom assistant records the homework, and where parents and teachers make any relevant comments. We ask parents to comment in this each time they hear their child read.

Pupils with special educational needs

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. If a child has special needs, 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 the Education Support Plans and Progress Plans.

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 they feel necessary and 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.

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 during the school's OFSTED inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent.

Our governing body may, at any time, request from our head teacher a report on the way homework is organised in our schools.