



## **Rationale**

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it could be necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

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 school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one way 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.

## **Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives of this homework policy are :

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To help pupils develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently ;
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- 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 ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.



- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.

## **The Nature of Homework**

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

## **Recommended Time Allocation**

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

## **Homework Tasks:**

Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

Regular homework will be set from Foundation stage two throughout the age groups until the end of Year 6.

Ongoing throughout school:

- Reading – This should be a minimum of 3 times per week for at least 10 minutes per night in KS1 and 20 minutes per night in KS2. Parents should sign the reading diary.
- Spellings/phonics – should be practiced on a daily basis
- Times tables practice - should be practiced on a daily basis



## Learning Logs

1. Each child, from Y1 onwards, will be provided with a learning log. This is where the bulk of children's homework will be done.
2. Class teachers will set appropriate learning homework objectives for their pupils each half term, providing the children with a set of objectives and activities which will reinforce the activities in the classroom in a learning pack. The children can tackle these objectives in any way they wish, encouraging independence and decision making, and then record their work on two pages within the book (no more than two pages can be used but things can be stuck to those pages).
3. Teachers are free to set homework objectives across the whole spectrum of subjects including English, Maths and CLJ activities, these packs will also include spelling and times table activities.
4. Teachers can provide objectives in any form they wish including worksheets etc... which the children can then complete in their books. It is important that not only worksheets are given as children need to be encouraged to make decisions about the way in which they approach a task.
5. Children are encouraged to take ownership of their learning log and have pride in the work which they complete.
6. Learning logs are to be handed in on a day specified by the class teacher, this day will remain consistent throughout the year and will be made public on the school website. Teachers will review homework books to ensure pupils have completed two pages in their log that week and identify any issues or concerns with the child's work which may need to be addressed. Marking of homework should mainly be praise marking with verbal feedback given if teachers identify any areas which need further support.
7. Class teachers will allocate time during each week to discuss elements of homework as needed, what the children did, how they achieved their objectives and what they might do differently if they had the time. This is to show the children that the work they do at home is valued.
8. Objectives are provided which suit both the children's age and their ability.

Pupils in Y2 and Y6 will receive additional work packs and revision activities in the period before their end of year statutory assessments. These additional work packs will be designed to ensure the pupils have an opportunity to practise key skills and work on areas which they need to develop to ensure they are fully prepared for their end of key stage assessments and for the next step in their educational journey.



Learning log time allocations per week:

- In KS1 we expect the children to complete a minimum of 30 minutes of homework on their learning log activity each week
- In KS2 we expect the children to complete a minimum of 1 hour of homework on their learning logs each week.

However if children are enthused by a task and enjoying their work the children can put as much additional time into a homework activity as they wish.

## **Role of the Class Teacher**

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, verbally or through the learning platform.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the cohort/Phase.
- To consider and differentiate the homework for pupils with additional learning needs, those including, but not limited to, dyslexia, ADD, ADHD, dyspraxia
- To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework in line with school policy and give feedback to pupils when necessary.

## **Role of Parents**

At Bursley Academy we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Parental tasks:

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.



- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- To encourage the children to take a creative approach to their homework, to try and get them to 'think outside of the box' in terms of how they can present their thoughts and ideas.

## **The Role of the Pupil**

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To copy down any further instructions they need.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties in completing the task in advance of the deadline date.

## **Rewards:**

High quality homework should be praised. Pupils should be rewarded for completed homework with House Points. The amount provided for each individual is dependent on the quality of work produced and should be left to the class teachers discretion but:

- House Points are then given based on the quality of the homework produced.
- If children hand in three 'good' pieces of homework in a row they receive a Certificate of praise.

## **Sanctions:**

Homework is an important part of learning and all children need to be encouraged to take part in the tasks set. If homework is not handed in on time the following sequence of events is initiated.

- The child will have their book returned and will be given one additional night to complete the expected amount of work (30 minutes minimum in KS1 and 1 hour minimum in KS2) they will then be expected to hand their homework in on the following day.



Note sent to parents explaining child has not handed in homework and next steps in the process. At this stage homework club is flagged up

- If a second piece of homework is not completed within that term the child is directed to a compulsory homework club for two weeks. This compulsory homework club will be twice a week for 30 minutes at lunch time. Homework is set as usual during this period and even if completed at home compulsory homework club has to be attended. Parents are informed by note which stresses importance of homework and that the child will be attending compulsory homework club.
- If three pieces of homework are missed in a term but not sequentially, a letter is sent to remind parents of importance of homework and the child will be directed to compulsory homework club for a four week period.
- If, after attending compulsory homework club there is no improvement in the handing in of homework, meeting to be arranged with parents to discuss next steps.

## General

- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. **In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.**
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.