

John Perry Primary School



Homework Policy

Date: October 2017

Policy to be reviewed: October 2018

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the Senior Management and Leadership teams during the Autumn Term 2017 and is regularly reviewed.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Maths and English.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

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 pupil's school career.
2. The amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
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

Foundation Stage:

Reception and Nursery Children will be encouraged to bring in items to school on a regular basis. The items requested will be linked to work and topics being undertaken in Foundation Stage classes. By involving the children in this way, it is hoped that they will be encouraged to talk at home about what they are doing in school and have concrete items to share with their teachers and other children and thus stimulate talk both at home and in their class. All children have a school bag to carry items of interest from home and letters/notes that teachers wish to share from time to time. Children will have a book to bring home to share and enjoy with their parents and other family members. This book is changed weekly. The children will also be given the high frequency words – a few at a time – to learn. Children will be given a small task such as writing and phonics practice, recognising numbers and words, drawing pictures and learning rhymes/songs. These will be recorded in their learning journey folders.

KS1 and KS2:

The following table provides a rough indication of the types of regular homework activity which might be expected on a daily or weekly basis.

YEAR	DAILY ACTIVITY	TIME	WEEKLY ACTIVITY	TIME
1	Reading Spellings	10 minutes 10 minutes	Maths	10 minutes
2	Reading Spellings	15 minutes 10 minutes	Maths	15 minutes
3	Reading Spellings	15 minutes 10 minutes	Maths	20 minutes
4	Reading Spellings	15 minutes 10 minutes	Maths or Topic	30 minutes
5	Reading Spellings	20 minutes 10 minutes	Maths or Topic	35 minutes
6	Reading Spellings	30 minutes 10 minutes	Maths or Topic	40 minutes

Other homework activities may include:

- Handwriting practice
- Times tables practice
- 'Talk homework' (in which case no written recording would be expected)
- A project based around a theme or topic being covered in class

All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- 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 praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

N.B. Whilst there is a legal responsibility for a school to set homework on a regular basis, the school cannot enforce the completion of homework and therefore, will not punish children for failing to complete some, or all of their homework.

Role of the Head Teacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

Role of Parents/Carers

- 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.

At John Perry Primary School 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.

Role of Pupils

- To listen to their class teacher's instructions and explanation so that homework tasks can be completed at the best of their abilities
- To stick activities neatly in the Homework book
- To bring the Homework book to school on those days when homework is given by the class teacher and to return it for the teacher/TA by the deadline
- To maintain a high standard of presentation in the books by keeping them clean and using their best handwriting and number formation

Marking

Homework will need to be marked, but not in the depth normally required by our marking policy. It is important to remember that not all out of school work has to be written work which needs marking. Wherever possible staff (class teachers and TAs) should try to mark any homework that is returned by pupils. However, marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.

General

- 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.

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