



Springcroft Primary School

Homework Policy

N.B. The Homework Policy has been reviewed in the light of comments retrieved from parental questionnaires and following staff consultation.

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Approved	Signature	Date

Our Mission Statement:

The place to learn, the place to succeed, the place to make friends, the place to grow.

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Introduction

Homework is anything pupils 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/carers to support the pupil's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their child before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for Homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for pupils to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which they can acquire the skill of independent learning. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

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 cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow pupils to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of Homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. We also believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers.

Homework will be sent home **every Wednesday** in a special homework book. This book should be returned to school the following **Monday**. The homework may include mathematics, writing, reading, spelling or topic activities. In Early Years homework time is an ideal opportunity to support your child with speaking and listening and communication skills, which, of course, are vital for future learning. As the children become older we expect them to do activities more independently. We also set homework as a means of helping pupils to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood. Homework is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning.

For example, whereas a Maths task would be marked according to the school marking policy a topic research task may be shared in the lesson or used as part of a group activity. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Spellings are set **every Monday**, for a spelling test the following **Monday**. Spellings are linked to phonics learning during that week/previous weeks in EYFS and KS1, and letter groups in KS2.

Practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money and familiarising children with measures are of great value. Sometimes, homework is for children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet. Investigations are offered to children to further support class work. We encourage parents to spend free time with their children on enjoyable sharing activities, for example cooking, painting and dressing up.

Amount of Homework

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give pupils. We expect pupils in Early Years and Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week on home activities, and this may be as well as reading with a parent. We encourage pupils in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately one and a half hours on homework type activities per week, and pupils in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately two hours a week. It must be understood that some children take longer than others to complete work set.

Inclusion and Homework

We set homework for all pupils as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all pupils can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their child as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers 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. Ideally parents should read with their child every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them on at least three occasions during each week. If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact

the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the Headteacher, in the first instance and, should concerns still remain, the governing body. Homework is seen in part as a preparation for the more independent learning undertaken at secondary school.

Use of ICT

A copy of the school's Online Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet. The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed.

However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. Pupils are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else. We also encourage pupils to view at least two websites to ensure the content/information is accurate. There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. We discourage pupils from bringing computer disks or memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility the governing body to agree and monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our homework policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher in consultation with teaching staff.