



Homework Policy

September 2021

Introduction

Homework is anything 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 the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children or hearing their children read before bedtime is classed as homework.

Rationale for homework

As part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within schools, homework is seen as one way of supporting and fostering life-long learning and connecting families with the learning of their children.

We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that participating in 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. 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 they develop their interests and skills to the fullest only when parents 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 consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

The amount and type of homework at different stages of a child's development

Homework is linked to teaching in class.

Children receive the following –

	Spelling Lists (Available on school website)	Reading Physical book	Maths
Nursery		One book per week	
Reception		Sound book every day One phonics book per week One Challenge book per week Word pots will be given once children are able to blend sounds together.	
Year 1	Weekly	Two books per week	
Year 2	Weekly Plus Online Spelling Shed	Two books per week	Twice a week
Year 3 – 4	Weekly Plus Online Spelling Shed	Two books per week	Twice a week Maths Shed
Year 4-5	Weekly Plus Online Spelling Shed	Children change books as and when needed.	Twice a week Maths Shed
Year 5/6	Weekly Plus Online Spelling Shed	Children change books as and when needed.	Twice a week Maths Shed

Nursery

- Once a week, a short activity will be shared with parents to complete at home. This will be shared via Tapestry. Parents will be encouraged to share any accomplishments with staff via Tapestry.
- Number work may also be given as homework.

Reception

- Once a week, a short activity will be shared with parents to complete at home. This will be shared via Tapestry. Parents will be encouraged to share any accomplishments with staff via Tapestry.
- Number work may also be given as homework.

Children should take around 40 minutes per week on the tasks listed above. Little and often is more enjoyable and effective than long periods of time.

Y1 – Y2

- Spelling lists are given out weekly. These should be practised regularly for the spelling test which will take place the following week. For Year 2, Weekly Spelling shed tasks will be given.
- Children are given one phonics book and one challenge book each week. Children should read and talk about their book to an adult at least three times a week.
- Weekly tasks linked to Foundation Subjects will be uploaded onto online platform (Tapestry or Seesaw). Feedback will be given online. This will be provided each Monday by staff and should be returned each Monday by parents/carers.

Children should take around 1 hour per week on the tasks listed above. Again, little and often is more enjoyable and effective.

Y3 – Y6

- Spelling lists are given out weekly and can be accessed via class pages on our school website. These should be practised regularly for the spelling test which will take place the following week. Practise should be done at least twice a week on spelling sheets. Weekly Spelling shed tasks will be given.
- Children are given levelled Reading books. Children should read and talk about their book to an adult at least three times a week.
- A weekly Maths shed task will be given.
- Homework from Foundation Subjects will be provided on Seesaw (online activity) or paper based for children who do not have access to IT software and hardware.
- As per Government guidelines, older pupils in primary schools should be given tasks such as finding out and preparing information as well as traditional writing tasks. At Edmondsley Primary School, we use this expectation to promote a smooth transfer to secondary schools.

Children should take between 1 and a half and 2 hours per week on the tasks listed above.

Time allocations are taken directly from The Government's recommended time allocation, based on current good practice, as set out in *Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools*.

Inclusion and homework

When setting more formal homework, 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 children 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/carers

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 and when they feel it to be necessary. 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. If parents have any questions about homework, they should contact the child's class teacher.

Use of ICT

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. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning.

Some of the most important educational software we use in school can be bought by parents on a home-user licence. This ensures that children are using age-appropriate software in their work at home. We discourage children from bringing computer software into school because of the risk of viruses.

Feedback to pupils on the quality of their work

Feedback will take the form of oral feedback, written comments or cursory marking. The type of feedback will be dependent on the activity and purpose of work completed for homework.

Monitoring and review

We allocate time to monitor the implementation of this policy. Parents complete a questionnaire each year and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised.

Implementation

- Our school will ensure that homework is an integral part of the curriculum prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.
- Pupils will record and ensure their understanding of the homework tasks and demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time doing the tasks set and handing the work back on time.
- Parents and carers will encourage and monitor homework and inform the school if an issue arises.
- Homework policy should be promoted throughout the school. Its implementation and effectiveness should be reviewed annually. This is to ensure that teachers and parents are completely clear about what is expected of pupils in terms of homework and how it should be organised and managed.