



TRIMLEY ST. MARTIN

Homework Policy

Trimley St Martin Primary School
January 2017

TSM Homework Policy

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff in consultation with parents and pupils and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

What is Homework?

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 important at all stages in a child's education.... It extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect. In this country there is evidence that pupils in the highest achieving schools spend more time on learning activities at home than pupils in other schools.’ OFSTED Annual report.

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 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.

Aims and Objectives

Our Aims

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment.
- To help pupils develop the skills needed to be an independent learner.
- 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 the individual pupil.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Mathematics and Literacy.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

Types 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 setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
- Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.

Homework Tasks (examples)

Reception- reading, phonics, Maths games

Years 1 and 2 – spellings, reading tasks, Maths tasks, writing tasks

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – spellings, reading tasks, Maths tasks, writing tasks, independent tasks

Reading

We would hope that children read daily (x5 weekly) and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times. Reading can be: reading quietly to ourselves or to our parents/siblings, reading instructions on a computer game, the ingredients on a recipe, even the instructions in the Maths and Literacy homework. We want to promote a love of reading in every child for every purpose.

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. The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities: (excluding reading)

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

Homework Schedules

Homework is given on a regular basis across the school following the schedule below. From time to time, homework may vary in response to a particular activity such as an educational visit. As with all work set, homework is monitored and results are recorded.

Year Group	Guideline Amount	Tasks/Activities/Subject Areas: Our expectations are that:
EYFS		Children will read daily. A Maths task, sound and/or word work will be set. This should be worked on for a few minutes each evening
Year 1	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 10 minutes each evening
Year 2	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Occasionally they may complete a relevant themed task. Time spent on homework should be up to 15 minutes each evening
Year 3	1 ½ hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Home learning projects, linked to class themes, may be set for completion. Time spent on homework should be up to 20 minutes each evening
Year 4	1 ½ hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Home learning projects, linked to class themes, may be set for completion. Time spent on homework should be up to 20 minutes each evening
Year 5	25mins daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Home learning projects, linked to class themes, may be set for completion. Time spent on homework should be up to 25 minutes each evening
Year 6	30 mins daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Home learning projects, linked to class themes, may be set for completion. Time spent on homework should be up to 30 minutes each evening

Equal Opportunities

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, and ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

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.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of the 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 or in the reading diary, at a parents' meeting or at an open evening.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.
- To set homework that takes equal opportunities into account.
 - To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To give feedback to pupils.

The Role of the Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education; 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.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should contact the governing body.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the 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. The governing body may, at any time, request from the Headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in the school.

Policy adopted by Governing Body January 2017

Last reviewed:

To be reviewed: January 2019

Signed by Head Teacher Signed by Chair of Governors