

Eastchurch Church of England Primary School



Homework Policy

Date: June 2015

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Introduction

It is generally agreed that some form of work at home is desirable for all primary age children. Homework should not be an unpleasant experience and, in general, should be used to reinforce children's schoolwork. For the older children, it helps prepare them for life in secondary school. Homework also gives parents an opportunity to discuss schoolwork with their children, providing some understanding of and insight into, the National Curriculum.

The aims and approaches described below are both realistic and sensible. As in all areas of school life, it is essential that parents and school are clear about what is to be achieved, and are mutually supportive.

Aims

- To encourage and enhance the work ethic.
- To reinforce and extend work done at school.
- To enable parents to share in the life of the school.
- To encourage a sense of responsibility in children and help them develop a sense of pride in their work.
- To help prepare older children, particularly those in year 6, for life in secondary school.

Approach

Homework builds on work done in the classroom. It enables the class teacher and the parent to confirm that the child has an understanding of a subject and helps to instil and develop a sense of discipline about work at home. If a teacher sets homework, there is an expectation that this will be completed by the set date.

Most homework will focus on the core subjects – English, mathematics and science. Occasionally work in or across other subject areas may be set instead of or in addition to work in core subjects. Homework should be provided on a consistent basis, with sufficient time allowed for the completion of the task. Children will be given clear instructions about the activity to be undertaken. The amount of time taken on a piece of homework will vary according to the ability of the child. In general about 10 minutes per night for reading and 20 minutes per week for other activities should be seen as the norm, less for younger children, sometimes more for older children. Homework will be set in line with current government recommendations (see below) and this will be clearly communicated to parents.

Homework will be differentiated appropriately according to the needs and ability of the child. The work will be related to facts and concepts that have been covered in the classroom.

Government Recommendations

Year	Recommended Time	Tasks
Years 1 & 2	1 hour per week	Reading Spelling Other English work Other maths work
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	1.5 – 2 hours per week	Reading, English and maths as for Years 1 & 2 with occasional assignments in other subjects

We do not encourage parents to take their children on holiday during term time, therefore we do not provide homework for children taking such holidays.

Every year group will give a written explanation to parents within a few weeks of the start of the academic year, to explain the work to be covered, what is expected from the children and the approach to homework. This is an important part of the communication process, giving parents the opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of class activity.

Teachers may feel this is an appropriate opportunity to offer advice or hints on how parents can help their child to learn spellings and tables. (E.g. the Look, Cover, Write, Check method)

Expectations

Year R Daily reading recorded in reading record. Other work may include: repeating nursery rhymes; repeating counting rhymes and practical activities involving counting; practising letter sounds; reading key words; practising spellings, and sharing library books.

Years 1 and 2 Daily reading recorded in the contact book, sight word practice, weekly spellings and/or sounds to learn and discussing shared library books. One mathematics or English activity may be given e.g. number bonds, tables to learn; handwriting or simple research.

Years 3 and 4 Daily reading recorded in the contact book and weekly spellings to learn. Mathematical or English work to support the weekly learning objectives such as tables and / or worksheets. Additional work may be given to support Science topics or other subject areas.

Years 5 and 6 Daily reading recorded in the contact book and weekly spellings to learn. Mathematical and English work to support the weekly learning objectives

such as tables and grammar worksheets. Additional work may be given to support Science topics or other subject areas.

Role of the parent

Parents have an obligation to ensure their child's homework is completed on time and they are therefore expected to support and encourage their child by giving time and a home environment in which homework can be done. The class teacher will, as far as possible, ensure that the child is completely clear on what they are expected to do at home, so that junior children in particular, are able to communicate this to the parent. It is hoped that this will encourage the children to develop a sense of responsibility.

Children benefit enormously from being able to discuss what they have done with their parents. This is not to suggest that the parent should spend time altering or correcting the child's work but rather discuss it and suggest how it might be done differently or improved. Constructive comments enable the child to develop a better understanding of the work and reinforce what is taught in school. Above all other subjects, reading is a crucial aspect of schoolwork and needs to be encouraged at all times. A child's written skills reflect the attitude of reading. A child who reads widely and with enthusiasm is often able to translate this into written work.

It is not possible for an adult to hear a child read in school every day. It is most important, therefore, for a parent to try to hear their child read as often as possible, to discuss the plot and characterisation and ask the child questions about what has been read. Younger children need to be heard on a regular basis, older children may however be expected to read independently and silently to themselves. It is of great benefit to children of all ages to discuss issues of all kinds with their parents as this helps children to develop vital speaking and listening skills and encourages the formation of social skills.

It is hoped that parents will support Eastchurch School in encouraging their children to develop a responsible attitude to their homework. To help parents know how to support their children we will give advice on parents' evenings and send written information home occasionally.

Role of the Teacher

Teachers should ensure that all homework sent home is:

- Meaningful and enhances the learning taking place in the classroom.
- Is thoroughly checked for errors and inaccuracies before sending out.
- Marked by the teacher and, where possible, sent home for parents to view and keep to promote mutual respect.

Recording of Homework

Homework will be recorded so that pupils can be rewarded for regular completion while those who seldom return this kind of work can be identified. Where there is cause for concern about homework completion, appropriate action will be taken.

Rewards

As a whole school incentive, every child will be given a raffle ticket for each piece of homework that is returned. During the Celebration Assembly on a Friday a ticket is drawn and the children gets the opportunity to choose a wrapped prize from the box. Individual

class awards are also offered by teachers as an incentive for both completing the homework and handing it in on time.