



## Homework Policy 2020



### Intent

Homework should create a partnership between home and school. Homework refers to tasks given to pupils to be completed outside of usual lesson. Common homework activities are reading and practising spelling and number facts as well as extended activities to develop enquiry skills. Research shows that overall homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning unless it is associated with greater parental involvement and support. The evidence suggests that tasks and activities which relate directly to what is being taught in school are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework. (see the Education Endowment Fund , Teaching and Learning Toolkit). At Hazel Slade Primary Academy we aim to use homework flexibly and as a tool to extend learning beyond the classroom, to engage children in their learning and to provide opportunities for parents to share in learning and activities with their children.

The purpose of homework is:-

1. to develop and extend work started in school.
2. to consolidate basic skills and knowledge.
3. to encourage pupils to develop perseverance, initiative and self-discipline through independent study.
4. to help pupils to learn study skills, improve personal organisation, time management and presentation skills.
5. to make pupils more responsible for their learning.
6. to provide a regular homework club after school with use of ICT and library facilities
7. to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in and support their child's learning

The responsibility of teachers is:-

1. to set tasks appropriate to the age and ability of the children.
2. to ensure feedback is given.
3. to set clear deadlines and realistic tasks for the time allocated.
4. to set a variety of tasks, when appropriate identify homework tasks in half-termly/weekly plans.

To enable all children to complete their homework school undertakes to provide a regular, free to attend, homework club after school where pupils may make use of ICT and library facilities.( This is in-line with our Equality objectives and School Improvement Plan).

The responsibility of parents is:-

1. to support the school in its educational aims.
2. to encourage responsibility and conscientiousness on the part of their children in completing tasks set.
3. to ensure homework is carried out in an appropriate setting. (i.e. not in front of the television).
4. to assist children in obtaining and using reference materials, when necessary.
5. to share in tasks with younger children.

The responsibility of pupils is:-

1. to ensure parents are informed of work set and of time deadlines.
2. to take responsibility, as they get older, for completing work on time and to the best of their ability.
3. to endeavour to produce 'quality' work.
4. to allocate sufficient time to the task set.

We do not specific amounts of homework, this is up to the discretion of the class teacher and will vary according to the ages of pupils. Teachers will inform parents of the class homework routine and expectations each September.

### Reading

All children are expected to read at home **every day**: younger children are asked to share books with parents and practice their phonic skills; older children are expected to read independently for sustained periods of time ( eg in Year 5 and 6 this should be for a minimum of 30 minutes daily). We have an attractive and well-stocked library which pupils may borrow books from, as well as taking home their school reading books. Once children become more independent readers, usually towards the end of Year 1, they use the Accelerated Reader Program which allows them to select books at the correct level and then check their understanding with a short quiz once they have completed the book. Online reading assessments ensure that books are well matched to the child's reading and comprehension ability. Reading is an essential skill and the homework task supports the time devoted to reading in school, ensuring that all pupils become proficient readers with a love of books. Parents may support their children further by visiting the local library. Even good readers enjoy being read to by a parent and a bedtime story makes a cosy end to the day as well as extending the range of books that children are exposed to. Children can access the e-books on the Oxford Owl website which are levelled and support children as they learn to read.

### Maths

Children are asked to spend time reinforcing and practising basic skills such as addition facts and multiplication tables. Pupils have been introduced to maths games to support this. Older pupils will receive maths work linked to their classroom learning in order to consolidate learning.

### Spelling.

Children will be asked to learn spelling patterns and common exception words.

### Mini-adventure Homework

Children may be asked to complete a task or enquiry based on their current mini-adventure. The aim of this homework is to extend classroom learning and to provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in their child's learning. Children may need to ask adults for information or may simply need to talk about a topic. Sometimes several weeks may be allocated for pupils to research an aspect of the enquiry or create an artefact or model at home.

### Homework club

A weekly homework club runs on Thursdays and this is an ideal opportunity for pupils to use the school library and ICT facilities to support them in their homework tasks. There is no charge and the club is run by teaching assistants who are on hand to offer guidance if needed. The club ensures that all pupils can use the online learning opportunities and programs regardless of facilities available at home.