

Norfolk Community Primary School

Homework Policy

Aims and objectives

Homework includes a wide range of activities provided by teachers, teaching assistants and parents to support a child's learning outside the normal school day. Homework is not just a way of extending the amount of time a child spends on academic work each day. It is an important way of involving parents/ carers in their children's education and developing a successful dialogue between school and home. Homework is a way of extending the educational experiences of the child. It can also consolidate recently acquired skills and develop the child's capacity for independent learning. We recognise the important role of play and free time in a child's development. We work with parents to ensure that the levels of homework provided for each year group are adequate, and do not prevent children from benefiting from a wide range of other experiences after school.

The aims of homework are:

- To enable pupils to make the maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To help pupils develop their skills as independent learners.
- To promote a partnership between home and school to support children's learning.
- To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered.
- To provide educational experiences not easily possible at school.
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school.
- To develop good work habits for the future such as time management, study skills and self direction

Types of homework

As outlined in our teaching and learning policy we promote active learning and provide learning experiences carefully planned to meet children's needs. This extends to the homework activities we provide. We endeavour to provide a careful balance of homework each term that includes:

- Reading books selected by staff at an appropriate instructional level for the child.
- Reading books selected by the child.
- Reading the work of particular authors.
- Learning spellings or number facts such as times tables.
- Puzzles and challenges to promote thinking skills.
- Research for a topic in history or geography using for example books, computers or interviews with relatives.
- Planning or completing a piece of extended writing for a literacy unit.
- Revision or other preparation for tests.

Amount of homework

The amount of homework set aims to be within the guidelines suggested by the DFEE in 1998. Key Stage 1 children are expected to do about one hour a week – including reading at home. Children in Y3 and Y4 are expected to spend about 15 – 20 minutes a night and children in Y5 and Y6 about 30 minutes a night. We encourage dialogue with home about the amount of time spent on homework – and recommend that if homework is taking significantly longer than this parents/ carers let class teachers know.

Encouraging participation in homework activities

Homework is not compulsory but pupils are strongly encouraged to complete homework within the time set, and return it to school, with a comment from the parent or carer wherever possible. We recognise that families will not always be able to complete and return homework but we seek to encourage engagement with all aspects of learning. Where a child consistently does not do homework this will disadvantage them and parents will be asked to discuss this with the class teacher. Time will be set aside during the school day for children to complete homework activities if these necessary.

Pupils with Special educational needs

We set homework for all children as part of normal school life. As part of our commitment to personalised learning we ensure that homework tasks are suited to the needs of all pupils. If a child has special educational needs the homework set will be differentiated by:

- Setting more accessible tasks.
- Varying the recording methods used.
- Basing the homework on intervention programmes that the child is taking part in.
- Varying the expectation to make the task more appropriate for pupils and parents.

Monitoring and evaluation

Homework is planned by year group teams and any issues with completion will be raised by teachers with Key Stage 1 and 2 phase leaders. Parents' and carers' views of homework activities are actively sought using a comments page at the front of each week's homework pack. These views are collated by phase leaders and any issues arising are discussed at senior team meetings.

This policy will be reviewed in June 2010.