



HARVEY ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Aims of the Policy

- to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers.
- to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- to ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- to ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account
- ensure that parents/carers have a clear understanding of how they can support their child/ren
- extend and support the child's learning through reinforcement and revision
- provide opportunities for the parents/carers, pupils and school to work in partnership
- provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to enjoy learning experiences together
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- to exploit all resources for learning including those found at home
- to extend school learning
- to encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline required for individual study
- to prepare children for the demands of secondary school

Content of the Homework Given

The main focus of homework will be literacy (including reading, writing, spellings and handwriting) and numeracy. As children move through the school this will continue to be the main focus with the addition of other subjects such as science and the humanities. Homework will consist of formal exercises to be completed by the child and will also include activities to be completed jointly by the parent/carer and pupil e.g reading, research.

We begin in the Foundation Stage with reading practice. This continues to be essential all the way through the child's primary education. A child, when ready, is expected to learn weekly spellings and this then extends to writing tasks.

Numeracy tasks begin with simple number activities that eventually develop into formal tasks. This will be supplemented by tables and number bond practice and mathematical games.

We aim to have a balanced approach to homework that combines both formal and more creative tasks. In addition to regular weekly activities, children may be given additional tasks that are differentiated according to age and ability. These may include research work, reading in preparation for lessons, preparation for an oral presentation and various forms of written assignments. Occasionally children may be asked to finish work at home but this will not form the core part of homework.

Time Allocations for Homework at Harvey Road School

Homework timetables will be shared with parents/carers at the beginning of every term. There will be regular, daily homework that all children will be expected to complete while there will also be specific tasks set.

Reading, especially in Key Stage Two, may form part of the other homework tasks.

Below is a guide to the volume of homework for each year group. Please note that these times are approximations as each child can take a different amount of time to complete tasks:

Year Group	Approximate time allocation per week	Subjects	All Classes *
Reception	10 minutes	Daily Reading Maths or Mark making	Daily Reading Spellings Timetables
Year 1	Working towards 15 minutes	Literacy or maths Reading Comprehension (approx. once per month)	
Year 2	20 minutes	Literacy or Maths Reading Comprehension (approx. once per month) Weekly handwriting Punctuation practice	
Year 3	25 minutes or more	Literacy (eg: spellings) or Maths Reading Comprehension (approx. once per month) Times Tables	
Year 4	30 minutes or more	Mental Maths Literacy Reading Comprehension (approx. once per month)	
Year 5	60 minutes or more	Literacy (30m) Numeracy (30m) Reading Comprehension (approx. once per 3 weeks)	
Year 6	2 hours or more	Literacy/Grammar activity (approx..45m) Maths (approx.. 40m) Spelling Activity (approx.. 20m) Research work History or Science Reading Comprehension (approx. once per 3 weeks)	

*Nursery and Reception classes will be gradually building up to this over the two years

Homework during School Holidays

Compulsory homework will not be given during the Christmas, Easter or Summer Holidays but may be given during half term holidays in year 3 and above. This may include research or creative projects. It is expected however, that all children will continue to read to parents/carers during holiday times, from either a reading scheme book or other chosen text as appropriate to their age.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The above timetable applies equally to children with special educational needs. Children who need extra support will receive differentiated tasks to meet their needs while they may also be given additional tasks that reinforce their learning. This may mean that they may have a different homework timetable to other children. Homework may also be given by a member of the SEN team

Home-school link books are maintained for some children and serve to increase the communication between parents/carers and school staff.

Planning and Coordination

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to plan and provide manageable tasks for the children and to liaise with parents/carers where necessary.

In Key Stage 2 all children will be provided with a Homework Diary/Link book in which to record homework tasks. Parents/carers are requested to read and sign the book weekly to confirm that they are aware of the work that has been set. By year 6 this becomes a formal homework diary.

Any child who fails to complete homework in Key Stage 2 will be asked to stay in during playtime to complete the task. This is referred to as 'Working Break'. Parents/carers may be informed of this depending on the frequency and severity. Children are not given homework when they are ill or absent for any other reason, unless in exceptional circumstances.

The Role of Parents/carers

Parents/carers are asked to provide a suitable place in which homework can be completed, whether working alone or with an adult. It is essential that parents/carers make it clear to their children that they value homework and are willing to support the school with their approach. This includes encouragement and praise at all levels.

Whilst parents/carers are encouraged to support their child it is important to stress that most regular 'formal' exercises should be done without adult assistance. If parents/carers do give assistance at any time they are asked to note this in the homework diary (KS2) to inform the teacher. Class teachers are explicit with instructions, but parents/carers are asked to consult them if unsure.

Feedback

Unless it is game related, all homework is marked promptly and feedback given to pupils unless. This may take a variety of forms according to the work set, such as:

- Class discussion about the work
- tests
- individual written feedback
- individual verbal feedback
- merit awards

Parents/carers are encouraged to give teachers any useful feedback. This may include:

- notes on the reading card
- notes in the homework diary
- notes attached to exercise books
- verbal feedback

This homework policy will be reviewed at least every four years.

N Rowlands
Headteacher

Date approved by Governing Body: January 2017

Date to be reviewed: January 2018