



Eastwick Schools

Homework Policy

Governors' Committee Responsible: Teaching and Learning Committee

Status: Non statutory

Review Period: 1 year

Next review Date: October 2017

In order that our pupils can attain their full potential we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this relationship. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by both teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Aim and Objectives

Regular, well planned homework can:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- Develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future
- Help parents gain an insight into their child's schoolwork
- Promote partnership between home and school
- Provide opportunities for independent learning
- Offer access to resources not found in school (public libraries, local museums etc.)
- Reinforce learning and assist in preparation for future class work
- Provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.

Homework is an essential part of a good, rounded education that supports children's development as independent learners.

What is homework?

Homework should not be a chore, children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

Homework covers a wide range of activities. The following list gives a few examples:

- Reading with a parent
 - Learning and revising sounds
 - Undertaking individual research for a project at the local library linked to the their topic
 - Finishing off work from the class
 - Learning number facts (times tables)
 - Literacy activities, both verbal and written (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
 - A follow- up maths task
- Homework also includes activities like:
- Being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation

- Going swimming
- Playing a musical instrument
- A family visit to a museum.

Homework can very much be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and seek to recognise this in school (for example in our whole school assemblies).

What the school will offer

During the autumn and spring term every parent receives an invitation to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss progress and areas of development to be undertaken in relation to the National Curriculum. This will include information about the types of homework which might be set by the school as well as indicating activities parents might wish to develop with their children.

In the summer term the parents will be invited to a celebration of work evening where the children and their parents have the opportunities to celebrate all that the children have achieved in the year.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to the current areas of study within the classroom
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities. If your child is finding part of the task too easy they should move on to the part that is more challenging so that they have time to complete the appropriate part of the task.
- The children record the homework that is set in their link books. Teachers check to make sure children have recorded correctly and provide support where needed
- Time scales for completion and submission is explicit
- Teachers will give two nights for homework to be completed as a minimum
- Work is marked promptly
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly and are communicated with parents where appropriate
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and included in the end of year reports to the parents
- Opportunities for regular, formal evaluation of homework are provided for teachers, parents and children as part of the on-going consultation arrangements

Types and amounts of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move up the school so that (See attached sheets for details on each year.)

- All children are expected to complete tasks in the given time. If they have not completed it, then they should stop.
- Children will be given an opportunity to complete their homework at the homework club which is overseen by their peer mentors during the school leisure time (This applies to children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- If a child continually fails to complete the homework parents will be contacted by the class teacher to discuss this further
- Should your child wish to do more homework, please refer to the school Hub (link). There are games and activities linked to learning in class.

The parents' role

As a school we encourage the parents to discuss with their children the following questions:

- When is it a good time to do my homework?
- Where is the best place for the homework to be done?
- What helps concentration?
- How long should my homework take?
- Should I ask for help with my homework, even when it is finishing work started in class?
- Who should I ask for help and how much should I expect?

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude towards homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work.

The boundary between what many parents see as constructive help and what children view as interference, is indistinct and can vary from day to day. Parents need to listen to the child's explanation of what they have to do and discuss the work their child is doing and whether or not help is needed, plus what form this might take.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should in the first instance contact the child's class teacher. If parents continue to have concerns they should contact the Year Group Leader, the Deputy Head teacher and then the Head Teacher.

Pupils with special educational needs

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.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. During the Governor Partnership day, Governors will look to see how the homework is organised and that the homework policy is in place.