

# Long Sutton Primary School Homework Policy



## 1 Introduction

Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

## 2 Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in Schools', where homework was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

## 3 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

## 4 Types of homework

**In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1** we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to share with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings or mathematical tables as part of their homework. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further

time on it. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local library and the Internet and CD-ROMs.

**At Key Stage 2** we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined in paragraph 4.1 but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set English and Maths homework routinely each week and Science for Years 5 & 6. We expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

## **5 Amount of homework**

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. •We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, which will include reading with a parent.

- We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes each week on homework

- Children in years 5 and 6 to spend up to two hours weekly. Where possible homework will be set so that children have two or three nights to complete it, to allow some flexibility. However, the school expects that homework is given to the teacher on the date specified.

We give all the children a school homework or reading diary. At Key stage 2 children are expected to record their homework tasks. At Key Stage 1 the teacher may issue a sheet with suggested tasks or may write in the child's diary. Parents are expected to check in the diary daily and to sign the diary weekly. They may also write any helpful comments, such as the length of time taken and how much support the child has been given.

**Teachers will monitor that children are attempting homework tasks and will inform parents if additional support is needed to encourage all children to be able to carry out homework tasks satisfactorily. All work completed on time will be responded to orally or in writing so that children see that their efforts are valued.**

## **6 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. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to the Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

## **7 The role of parents**

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents to check the home/school diary at least once a week and to sign it as requested. If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

Signed: .....

Headteacher

Signed: .....

Chair of Governors

Date of Review: .....

Date of Next Review: .....

**February 2008**