

Grovelands Primary School

HOMWORK POLICY

Impact: The use of homework increases the partnership between home and school and develops parent and carers' understanding about how they can support their child's learning at home.

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners and 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 however we acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Homework, while important should not prevent children from taking part in out of school activities that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of homework

We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 we give children reading books each night to take home and read with their parents.

Key Stage 1

Maths: Children receive a piece of differentiated maths homework based on the work they have been doing in class. Our aim is to ensure children can complete the sheet independently, and every week.

Literacy: Children are given a Homework Journal. We expect children to write in this every week, based on the child's choice.

Spellings: Spellings are based on children's phonics lessons. Spelling go home every week and children are tested on these every week.

Topic: We sometimes ask children to talk about or find and collect things at home relating to a topic, prior to studying it in school.

Key Stage 2

Maths: Children receive a piece of differentiated maths homework based on the work they have been doing in class. Our aim is to ensure children can complete the sheet independently, and every week.

Literacy: Children are given a Homework Journal. We expect children to write in this every week, based on the child's choice.

Spellings: Spellings are based on children's writing and ability. Spellings go home every week and children are tested on these every week.

Topic: We sometimes ask children to research and find out about things at home relating to a topic, prior to studying it in school.

Amount of homework

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent.

We give all our pupils a Reading Record where reading is recorded and any relevant comments made by either a parent, teacher, or teaching assistant.

Inclusion and homework

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, and 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 those pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

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.

If parents have any 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.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent.

This Policy was Reviewed and Updated: June 2015

Date of Next Review: July 2017

Signed by Chair of the Governing Body:  _____