



## **Farnborough Road Infant School**

### **Policy on Homework**

“Learning, Caring and Achieving Together”

#### **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.

#### **Homework Questionnaire Feedback (February 2023)**

I think reading 5x per week benefits my child's reading ability 83%

Do you think learning weekly spellings helps your child in their writing? 78%

We provided a wide variety of homework that prepares your child for their learning in school and keep parents informed of what their child is learning. Do you feel this benefits your child's learning? 71%

#### **Our parents commented:**

‘Reading is the most important homework’

‘Reading everyday is essential in our view for their continued learning and understanding of words and their meaning’

‘Spelling is a brilliant task over the week you can visually see the benefit in the story telling and comprehension’

‘We have a great work ethic starting at home due to homework responsibilities’

‘I enjoy doing homework and it gives us a chance to talk / go over things done in school. It sparks discussion I enjoy taking part in his learning’

#### **Rationale for homework**

At Farnborough Road Infant School we believe homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. Although, there are no government guidelines which set out how much time children should spend doing homework each night, government officials insist that homework would remain an important part of education. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of the partnership between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the 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 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

## **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 cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills they have learnt in school.
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

## **Types of homework**

Staff and pupils regard homework as an important part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

We set a variety of homework activities. In Reception and at Key Stage 1, we expect children to read at least 5 times a week at home. We give children reading and library books to take home to read with their parents/carers and also encourage children to read comics, E-books etc. We give guidance to parents/carers on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. Reception children can learn through practical activities and number rhymes and songs. In Key Stage 1 children learn spellings or number facts as part of their homework. Sometimes, we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. Sometimes, we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the Internet.

Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

## **Amount of homework**

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. This is in line with the Dfes guidelines that were issued in 1998. Parents are encouraged to talk to the class teacher if their child is struggling or taking too long to do their homework.

Some children (particularly those in Reception) will benefit from shorter periods on a regular basis e.g. 5-10 minutes.

## **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 age of the child, and we endeavour to set tasks so that all children can contribute in a positive way.**

## **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 and when they feel it to be necessary. Parents can support their child by providing a quiet space at home, by discussing the work and encouraging the children to talk about it.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents should contact the Headteacher.

**Use of IT**

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning such as Oxford Owls, Letter Join, Purple Mash and Espresso Discovery Education. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

**Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our Headteacher a report on the way in which homework is organised in our school.

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

**Updated November 2023**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Headteacher.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair of Governors.**