



Grove Vale Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Rationale

Homework can play a vital role in raising standards and maintaining good home/school links but where parents are unsure of the expectations of the school and pupils do not receive clear feedback from **both** home and school, then it may actively discourage learning and damage the home/school relationship. It is when home and school work in partnership that homework will make the greatest contribution to learning and this policy has been drawn up through consultation with staff, parents and governors.

This policy aims to:

- Reflect the school mission statement: "Excellence through partnership..."
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- Encourage good study habits, independence and self-organisation in our pupils
- Set clear guidelines for staff, pupils and parents/carers
- Be a tool to raise standards
- Support school work by giving practice activities and revision
- Extend school work through opportunities to research
- Provide an opportunity for home-school communication
- Provide opportunities for parents to share further in their child's education
- Help pupils develop enquiring minds
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the demands of secondary school home study

What is the purpose of Home Learning?

In order to extend the concept of traditional homework and to provide a more varied and fulfilling range of tasks, the term Home Learning may be used.

Its purposes include:

- To learn new skills and knowledge
- To practise skills and knowledge as a follow up to lessons in school
- To prepare for future lessons
- To develop independent study skills and good study habits
- To improve skills and confidence in different areas of study
- To develop an enquiring mind
- To provide opportunities for 1:1 attention
- To involve parents to take an interest in and support their child's learning
- To encourage children to explore areas of interest to them

Work sent home may involve:

- Learning words in print – individual words or beat the clock sheets
- Reading with an adult or independently (this should happen daily, even for children in KS2), sharing reading scheme books and books chosen for pleasure from our library.
- Discussing reading books
- Reading books from the School Library
- Discussion from a prompt
- Spelling practice/ challenges
- Drawing
- Mathematics, including Mental Maths and learning number facts including times tables
- Playing a number or word game
- Games to play with an adult
- Planning a story

- Practising handwriting – letter and number formation
- Writing in sentences
- Learning and/or practising a poem or rhyme
- Preparing to read aloud to the class or at an assembly
- Finding interesting items to bring in
- Research work and/or project work
- Preparing a draft version or a final version of a piece of work
- Music practice
- Worksheets or exercises which follow up class work to practice and revise skills
- Investigations
- Collecting materials or information needed for class work
- Completing a piece of work begun in class
- Visiting the local public library

Home learning can include reflection/research exercises which may not necessarily involve a formal worksheet

How much time should be spent on Home Learning- A guide?

The following table is a **guide** as to how much homework should be completed over a week.

| | Time spent per night in minutes | Time spent per night in minutes may be one longer activity to be spread over a number of nights |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Class | Reading | Other Activities from range listed |
| Reception | 10 | 5 |
| Yrs 1 & 2 | 20 | 15 |
| Yrs 3 & 4 | 20 | 20 |
| Yrs 5 & 6 | 20 | 25 |

It is essential that every child is given every support and encouragement from home (or from a carer if he/she is minded after school) to complete the work set.

School recognises and values the importance of other out of school activities e.g. cubs, brownies, football training, dancing, swimming lessons etc, and also greatly values the place for physical activity, relaxation and opportunities for the development of the child's own hobbies and interests. It is essential that leisure pursuits are part of a child's life and home study time must be included in the home routine to allow for these other activities. Guidelines for parents will be given in a Home Study Guidance Book given to parents when their child enters school and advice on how to praise and encourage the child will be given and how to avoid conflict and stress in the home. The two important points to remember are:

Little and often is better *and* Quality rather than quantity

School will help establish good home study habits by making some homework routine e.g. setting spellings to learn and also by allocating more than one evening for longer pieces of work. Some research work may extend over several evenings and use weekends.

How will teachers, pupils and parents get feedback?

It is important that pupils are receiving feedback on their progress and are being encouraged to set targets for their improvement. These targets, when shared with parents, will lead to improved standards in learning and the use of our new homework diaries will improve opportunities for partnership. It will provide a reading record for home and school, an opportunity to share targets set and achieved, and an opportunity to give feedback on work and other activities in and out of school.

Homework will not always be marked in writing – verbal feedback may be more appropriate at times and the home learning task may sometimes be marked together as a class or feed into another task which is formally marked. If a teacher or a parent has a concern about a child's homework, the homework diary should be used or a face to face meeting arranged.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

For those pupils with learning difficulties, home learning tasks may require more time. The child may therefore be given **less** work to allow for quality learning. Generally, a child who has difficulties with learning will not “catch up” by being given extra work. To build up self-esteem and confidence; it is essential to allow a slower learner to achieve high standards in less work than to overload. Allocating less work also allows for over learning e.g. if he/she learnt it last week then go over it again... and again... and again. This is a tried and tested method of teaching SEN pupils and it allows for maximum praise and encouragement for what they have learnt.

Able and talented pupils

Pupils with particular abilities in subjects may require different or additional tasks to extend their knowledge or thinking. Such work may be set by the class teacher or the Gifted and Talented coordinator; as with all homework, the pupils should be provided with the opportunity to discuss and/or receive feedback on his/her work. The Gifted and Talented policy outlines the school position in this area. The school is always happy to give advice about how parents can support children with specific gifts and talents.

Inclusion

Grove Vale is an inclusive school guided by strong values that are expressed in our school aims. These aims promote inclusive education in its widest sense in all areas of school life.

This extends to homework. When homework is set, staff should be aware of pupils' needs and of issues which might affect pupils' ability to undertake a piece of homework. They should use their professional judgement and the advice of colleagues to address any issues raised in whatever manner is deemed appropriate to a particular situation to promote the issue of inclusion.

Home Study Pupil Absence

School does not send homework to those pupils who are absent through illness because it is assumed that the child is too unwell to do it. However, there are occasions when a child may be sufficiently recovered but still unable to attend school and we are happy to provide work given at least 24 hours notice.

We do not send homework to cover for holidays taken in school time. Governors recommend that holidays are not taken during term time.

Making the expectations clear

The teachers will:

- Plan for home-school study tasks at the short term planning stage
- Keep to a routine of standard tasks where possible
- Give more than one evening for longer tasks
- Provide verbal or written feedback to pupils and help them to set and achieve targets for future work
- Encourage positive home/school communication
- Use the merit system to reward success and effort

The pupils will:

- Know that home study is an important part of their learning and do their best, seeking help where required and talking to parents/carers about what they are learning in school
- Be expected to have the work in on time
- Spend the allocated time on the non-written tasks e.g. spelling, reading, music
- Be expected to set and work to targets appropriate to their age
- Have the home study communication book in school daily and take it home every afternoon
- Apply themselves to the task set

The parents/carers will:

- Ensure that the child is given time and encouragement to work on the task(s) set
- Use the homework diary to feed back to the child and teacher
- Read daily with their child, particularly those under 9 year olds (or those whose reading is below 9 years) for the recommended time each day
- Provide a regular routine and suitable environment for study
- Praise success and effort

The Headteacher will:

- Monitor the planning of the work
- Monitor the use of the Homework Diary
- Review the policy with the Senior Management Team and Governors
- Reward success and effort through the merit system
- Support teachers, pupils and parents to ensure that the policy is effective

Improving basic skills is the responsibility of all stakeholders at Grove Vale.

Year Specific Home Learning Activities at Grove Vale

| Year Group | Home Learning Activities (activity and frequency) |
|------------|---|
| R | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Scheme books (book and worksheet) – Weekly • Maths Game –Weekly • Home Activity (Themed research)- Weekly • Differentiated Phonics/High Frequency Words Activities- Weekly |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home reading book with comprehension sheets – Changed twice weekly • Spellings- Weekly • Numeracy games- Weekly • Library books – Changed regularly (weekly visits) • Holiday homework- Activity Sheets |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home reading book- Weekly • Spellings- Weekly • Numeracy activity- Weekly • Literacy activity- Weekly • Library books – Changed regularly (weekly visits) • SATs Revision Booklet- Easter term |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books- weekly • Spellings – Weekly • Times tables – Weekly • Numeracy activity- Weekly • Literacy activity- Weekly • Creative Curriculum (topic research)- Every 2/3 weeks • Occasional piece of literacy/numeracy for consolidation • Holiday homework – 1 piece of literacy/numeracy • Library books – Changed regularly (weekly visits) |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books – Daily opportunities to change when finished • Library books- Changed regularly (weekly visits) • Numeracy games - Changed fortnightly • Spellings/Spelling log- Weekly • Numeracy activity- Weekly • Literacy activity- Weekly • Research for Creative Curriculum/Extra-curricular work- When appropriate |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books – Daily opportunities to change when finished • Spellings- Weekly • Numeracy activity- Weekly • Literacy activity- Weekly • Science or Topic based work- When appropriate (usually weekly) • Library books – Changed regularly (weekly visits) |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spellings –Weekly • Reading books- Weekly (Children have daily opportunities to change their books) • Numeracy game/worksheet activity- Weekly • Literacy worksheet/piece of writing –Weekly • Topic work/Piece of research- Weekly • Ongoing revision (Using revision books/ Online resources) • Library books – Changed regularly (weekly visits) |