



Eversley
Primary School

Homework Policy

2017/2018

Introduction

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

Rationale

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 pupils can acquire the skill of independent learning. 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 other activities that play an important part in pupils' lives. At Eversley we use homework to:

- reinforce classroom learning
- contribute to children's progress in school
- provide opportunities for children to practise skills with parents/carers
- develop learning and good work habits for the future
- promote habits of enquiry and investigation
- support development of independent learning skills
- promote an effective home/school partnership

The Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. Parents/Carers can support their child by providing an effective working environment at home and by discussing the work that their child is doing for homework. We ask parents/carers to ensure that their child completes their homework task on time. It is important that homework is returned to school at the appropriate time as it may be followed up in class on that day.

Sharing and reading books is one of the most important activities parents/carers can do with their children at home. This can start before children begin school in Reception and should continue through school, even when they are fluent readers themselves. It does not have to be a school reading book; any reading material e.g comics, information books or magazines all help to improve children's understanding of the written word. More formal homework should not replace daily reading. It is important that parents/carers share books with their children and support their reading by asking questions to improve comprehension.

At Eversley the presentation of work is very important and we ask that parents reiterate this at home so that pupils' homework is well organised and well-presented so that they have pride in their work at home and at school.

Organisation of Homework

Each year group will send home a letter at the beginning of the school year stating which days homework will be set and when it needs to be returned to school. All children will have a homework book for both literacy and maths. Some homework will be carried out electronically on Fronter or through My Maths.

Homework Diaries/Reading Records

In KS2 all pupils will receive a homework diary in which they will record all homework when it is set and also use as a reading record in years 5 and 6. In year 3 these will be introduced in the summer term. Children are encouraged to be responsible for these books and to make sure that they are up to date and that reading is recorded. We ask that parents/carers support their children in doing this. Homework diaries are sent home each day and we ask that they are checked and signed by parents/carers. At school, they are monitored on a weekly basis and countersigned by the classteacher.

In KS1 and year 3, pupils have reading record books to record daily reading. Again, we ask parents/carers to sign these at least once a week. These must be countersigned by the classteacher or teaching assistant on a weekly basis.

Marking Homework

All homework will be marked and books sent home weekly. When marking homework it is acceptable for the teacher to acknowledge that the homework has been looked at, but as homework is set to consolidate work done in class it is not necessary or appropriate to use the school's success and improvement model of marking or to make lengthy comments. Acknowledgment in the form of a short comment, tick or reward (e.g. sticker, star etc.) is appropriate.

Homework

The following information sets out the quantity and type of homework usually sent home for each year group. As children move through the school the complexity and amount of time spent on homework will increase. The time allocations below give the approximate amount of time children should spend doing their homework per week, *excluding time spent reading*.

At times, additional tasks/activities will be set linked to our curriculum themes. Children may be given research homework to do during school holidays but other than this regular homework will not be set during the holiday. Other suggested home activities linked to our curriculum will be given to parents/carers on a termly basis as part of the curriculum overview.

Reception

- >Reading and sharing of books- At least 10 minutes each day
- >Work to support 'Letters and Sounds' will be sent home when relevant
- >Half termly maths foci with suggested activities
- >Children in Reception have 'Special Books'. These are for parents/carers and children to share and show their learning and experiences at home. More information on this will be given to parents at the Early Years Curriculum Evening in the autumn term.

Year 1

Approx 1 hour per week

- >Reading and sharing of books- At least 10 minutes each day
- >A short phonic/language activity related to Letters and Sounds – after first half term
- >weekly writing activity from the Spring Term
- >Half termly maths foci with suggested activities
- >Half termly literacy foci with suggested activities

Year 2

Approx 1 -1 ½ hour per week

- >Reading and sharing of books- At least 10 minutes each day
- >A weekly spelling activity linked to Support for Spelling
- >A weekly diary/writing journal
- >A weekly maths activity

Years 3 and 4

Approx 1 ½ -2 hours per week

- >Reading and sharing of books- At least 15 minutes each day
- >A weekly spelling activity linked to Support for Spelling
- >A weekly writing activity
- >A weekly maths activity

Years 5 and 6

Minimum of 2 ½ hours per week

- >Reading and sharing of books- At least 20 minutes each day
- >A weekly spelling activity linked to Support for Spelling
- >A weekly literacy activity
- >A weekly maths activity

Questions about Homework

How do I know what homework my child has?

In KS1 and year 3, any instructions will be included with the homework. In years 4,5 and 6 the children have homework diaries which they will complete in school. An explanation of the task may be given alongside examples of how the task can be completed, e.g. guidelines showing an example of methods of recording to be used in maths homework where relevant.

Each year group will send home a letter at the beginning of the school year to inform parents/carers what homework their children will receive weekly and the days it will be sent home and returned by.

What if neither my child nor I understand the homework?

In this case the child should check with the teacher when the homework is set or the following day, or parents/carers can write a note to the classteacher or speak to them the following day.

How much should I help my child?

This will depend on the task and the individual needs of the child. Parents/carers should give as much support as necessary but should not do children's homework for them. As a school we encourage parents/carers to use the opportunity to be involved directly in their children's learning. Explaining, encouraging, helping with research or checking work is brilliant. It is useful if parents/carers record on their child's homework whether it has been supported or not.

What if my child doesn't seem to have the weekly homework?

Check that your child is filling in his/her homework diary (KS2) and check their bag/ book bag. It may be because of end of term events, outings or holidays when the teacher feels homework is not appropriate. Encourage children to develop their own interests e.g visiting the library, learning a new game or exploring outside. Homework is generally not set over the holiday periods.

What if my child won't do their homework?

Children can be reluctant to work at home and often need encouragement. Make sure that your child has somewhere quiet to work, that they are not too tired and that they do not sit working for long periods of time. See your child's classteacher to discuss ways to engage and encourage your child.

How much homework will my child receive?

This will depend on which year group your child is in and is set out in this policy.