

Emmanuel Church of England School Homework Policy

1 Mission statement and introduction

1.1 Mission statement

At Emmanuel school broad opportunities are provided for individuals to develop their full potential and allow them to be healthy, happy and secure.

Building on our Christian ethos and in partnership with the whole school community, we provide a stimulating and caring environment where individuals are valued and nurtured morally, spiritually and academically. We stress the fundamental principle;

“Always treat others as you would like them to treat you” Matthew 7:12

1.2 Homework is anything that 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 children’s learning.

2 Rationale for homework

2.1 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/carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. 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.

2.2 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child’s level of attainment. 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.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 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 Amount of homework

4.1 We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. See sections 8-10 for more details.

5 Pupils with special educational needs

5.1 We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. It is our aim that all tasks set are appropriate. 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 child's individual targets.

6 The role of parents/carers

6.1 Parents/Carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to support their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents/Carers 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. Parents/Carers can also listen to their children read on a regular basis and support them from Year 1 upwards learning key number facts. It is the expectation of the school that a parent's signature on the Home/School Agreement demonstrates their active support that deadlines for homework will be met.

6.3 If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should request the school's Complaints policy.

7 Key Stage Homework Guidelines

7.1 Each Key Stage has separate expectations for homework which is progressive as children move through the school. All homework is sent out on a Friday and is to be returned the following Tuesday. If it is not handed in on time, it may not be marked.

8 Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception)

Nursery

Children in Nursery class will be given two activities from the below each week:

- Reading for pleasure
- Outdoors activity
- Singing a song

Reception

Children in Reception class will receive the following homework each week:

Autumn Term

- Reading for pleasure
- Phonics activity
- Outdoors activity

Spring and Summer Term

- Reading for pleasure
- Phonics activity
- Hands-on maths activity

9 Key Stage 1 (Years 1 - 2)

Children in Key Stage 1 will be given the following homework each week:

Reading for pleasure

- Children should read for up to 20 minutes every day at home with a parent or carer. This should be recorded in the child's reading record and initialled by the parent/carer. Comments are optional but are useful to the class teacher.
- Reading Records will be collected by the class teacher once a week.

Spellings

- Each half term, a list of all the spellings for the half term will be sent home, ready for a test each week. The importance is on children learning the spelling pattern or rule so that they can apply this into their writing.

Number facts and times tables

- In Year 1, children will be expected to learn by memory the number facts within 20.
- In Year 2, children will begin learning their 2s, 5s and 10s multiplication tables in Spring Term.

Weekly homework

- A maths activity or a literacy activity will be sent home in alternate weeks.
- For maths, there will be a variety of tasks including a maths activity online or a problem solving activity to consolidate learning in class.
- For literacy, children will be given a variety of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar activities or a creative writing activity.

10 Key Stage 2 (Year 3-Year 6)

Children in Key Stage 2 will be given the following homework each week:

Reading for pleasure

- Children should read for at least 20 minutes every day at home.
- To encourage children to read for pleasure, they will be given a bookmark with a different character. Each time they read for 20 minutes, the child can tick their bookmark. When they have completed one bookmark with ticks, they can then move onto the next character. Each classroom will have a display showing which child is on which character.

Spellings

- Each half term, a list of all the spellings for the half term will be sent home, ready for a test each week. The importance is on children learning the spelling pattern or rule so that they can apply this into their writing.

Times Tables

- Children should practise their times tables throughout Key Stage 2, ready for a weekly test. End of year expectations for learning the multiplication tables are below:

Year group	Expectations
2	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
3	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 6 and 8 multiplication tables.
4	Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12

To encourage children to learn the multiplication tables and division facts up to 12 x 12, we use a reward system of bronze, silver and gold badges.

Each week pupils will do a times tables test in class under timed conditions. When a child gets full marks two weeks in a row, they can move onto the next test. The tests are set out as follows:

2x, 5x, 10x tables

Test 1: 2x, 5x, 10x tables.

Test 2: Division facts for 2x, 5x, 10x tables.

Test 3: Times tables and division facts for 2x, 5x and 10x tables.

BRONZE REWARD

3x, 4x, 6x, 8x tables

Test 1: 3x, 4x, 6x, 8x tables.

Test 2: Division facts for 3x, 4x, 6x, 8x tables.

Test 3: Times tables and division facts for 3x, 4x, 6x and 8x tables

SILVER REWARD

7x, 9x, 11x 12x tables.

Test 1: 7x, 9x, 11x, 12x tables.

Test 2: Division facts for 7x, 9x, 11x, 12x tables.

Test 3: Times tables and division facts for 7x, 9x, 11x 12x tables
GOLD REWARD

Maths Homework

- Children will be given a variety of tasks to consolidate learning in class including a maths activity online or a problem solving activity.

Literacy Homework

- Children will be given a variety of tasks to consolidate learning in class including a Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar activity or a creative writing activity.

KS2 Notes

- If homework is not handed in or incomplete, children will be expected to stay in at lunchtime for 20 minutes for 'Homework Club', unless there has been communication from a parent.
- At 'Homework Club', children will complete one piece of homework from that week.
- If homework has not been completed or handed in 3 times in one half term, parents/carers will be contacted by the class teacher.

11 Monitoring and review

11.1 The Governing Body has delegated responsibility for monitoring and reviewing of this policy to the Standards and Human Resources Committee.

Policy reviewed: September 2017

Agreed review schedule: 3 years

Next review due: September 2020

Reviewed by (signature)

Flick Rea, Chair of S&HR

Kathryn Fitzsimmons, Head Teacher

Date