

Homework Policy

Mission Statement and Introduction

At Emmanuel Church of England Primary 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

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.

Rationale for Homework

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.

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

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- Help pupils develop the skills as an independent learner;
- Promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child’s learning;
- Enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- Provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- Consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;

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- Help children develop good work habits for the future.

Amount of Homework

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

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

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 educational 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.

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. 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 (see appendix A) demonstrates their active support that deadlines for homework will be met.

If parents have any problems or 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 it is implemented; parents should request the school's Complaints policy.

Key Stage Homework Guidelines

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.

Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception)

Nursery

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

- Reading for pleasure

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- 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

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.

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- 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.

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.
- Children should record all their reading in their 'reading record', which are monitored by the class teacher.

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

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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 is 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.

Use of technology

All pupils have individual logins to 'Google Classroom' and homework is set through this platform each week. Pupils also have access to a number of other online resources (such as Time Table Rockstars, Spelling Frame and Serial Mash) and will be directed to complete activities through these platforms.

Pupils can complete their homework tasks digitally, and submit it to the class teacher via Google Classroom, or use a homework exercise book and then hand it physically into the teacher.

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Monitoring and review

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

Policy reviewed: February 2021

Agreed review schedule: 3 years

Next review due: February 2024

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Appendix A:

Home/School Agreement

AGREEMENT FOR PUPILS

I will do my best to:

- Join in with the Christian ethos of the school
- Come to school every day and be on time
- Wear the correct school uniform with pride
- Respect the rights of others and behave well at all times
- Be polite, helpful and considerate
- Talk to an adult if I am feeling sad or worried
- Be ready to participate and enjoy learning
- Read daily and complete my homework on time and to the best of my ability
- Take good care of the school environment
- Talk to my family about what I have learnt at school

PUPIL SIGN HERE:

AGREEMENT FOR PARENTS/CARERS

I will do my best to:

- Support and join in with the Christian ethos of the school
- Attend termly parent/teacher meetings
- Aim for 100% punctuality and attendance
- Telephone school with reason for absence
- Collect my child on time and inform the school if someone else is collecting them
- Be responsible for my child in the playground before and after school hours
- Ensure all home tasks are completed especially daily reading
- Ensure correct uniform is worn at all times including school PE Kit
- Support all school policies with particular regards to Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, Acceptable Use, Equality
- Conduct myself politely and respectfully whilst on school premises
- Make the school aware of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour

PARENT/CARER SIGN HERE:

AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL

The school will do its best to:

- Be open and welcoming at all times and provide a stimulating learning environment and Christian ethos
- Teach and encourage children to respect each other, and to respect their differences
- Care for your child's safety and happiness
- Offer a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all children
- Keep you informed of the curriculum and how your child is progressing
- Ensure your child works hard and enjoys learning
- Contact parents if there is a problem concerning your child's attendance/ punctuality
- Set, mark and monitor homework regularly in keeping with school policy
- Provide a range of after school activities to enrich your child's experience
- Celebrate the success of our children both in school and achievements outside school

HEADTEACHER SIGN HERE: