

Spaldwick Community Primary School



Homework Policy

This policy was developed in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and Governors

June 2009

Our Vision
'Supporting, Valuing and Challenging Together'

Our School Slogan
'Where every day is a chance to learn and succeed'

Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of good education and we know that our children learn with their family. We value this learning and encourage our children to share their knowledge and experiences with us in school. At Spaldwick Community Primary School we believe homework activities are an important part of the home/school partnership, providing a link between home and school in which learning is shared and valued.

Regular homework is important, giving children the opportunity to reinforce at home the learning done in class, and helping them work towards improving important skills. It also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and, later, in adult life.

We know and understand that our children and their families lead busy lives. We therefore set homework activities on a weekly basis. The homework routines for each class are shared with parents and pupils in the Topic Information letters distributed at the beginning of each term. This information can also be accessed through the school's web site.

We follow the government guidance on homework activities and set weekly activities for reading, English and Maths. There are occasions when 'topic' related homework is given to support our cross-curricular learning. Longer 'homework projects' are also given out during the year, these often have a research and /or 3-d product as part of the task.

In all classes we encourage children to talk about their learning at home and they are welcome to do further 'study' if they wish and bring in work they have completed to share with the teacher and/or class.

The homework policy aims to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and their children
- ensure that homework activities extend and support learning
- ensure that homework activities provide opportunities for parents and children to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences together

Time allocations and activities

The homework can be completed at any time during this week, depending on what suits family life. It can be done in the morning or after school, during the week or at weekends. However, it is best to complete it 'a little a day'. All children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class.

It is expected that children will spend at least the following times on homework activities.

This is in line with the Government's recommended time allocation based on current good practice as set out in Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools. DfES 2005.

Year group	Weekly working expectation	Homework Activity
Reception	10 minutes per night	During the week reading, phonics, numeracy
Year 1	1 hour per week 10 -15 minutes per night	Weekly learning routines: Reading, Spelling Specific homework task linked to Literacy, Numeracy or Topic
Year 2	1 hour per week 10 -15 minutes per night	Weekly learning routines: Reading, Spelling, Multiplication Tables Specific homework task linked to Literacy, Numeracy or Topic
Year 3	1.5 hours per week 15 -20 minutes per night	Weekly learning routines: Reading, Spelling, Multiplication Tables Specific homework task linked to Literacy, Numeracy or Topic Homework Project linked to term's Topic
Year 4	1.5 hours per week 15 -20 minutes per night	Weekly learning routines: Reading, Spelling, Multiplication Tables Specific homework task linked to Literacy, Numeracy or Topic Homework Project linked to term's Topic
Year 5	2.5 hours per week 30 minutes per night	Weekly learning routines: Reading, Spelling, Multiplication Tables Specific homework task linked to Literacy, Numeracy or Topic Homework Project linked to term's Topic
Year 6	2.5 hours per week 30 minutes per night	Weekly learning routines: Reading, Spelling, Multiplication Tables Specific homework task linked to Literacy, Numeracy or Topic Homework Project linked to term's Topic

Presentation of the Homework

From Y1, all pupils will use a Homework Book. They will use this to complete their tasks, if appropriate. The book will become their record and support home-school dialogue

How staff at Spaldwick Primary School support this policy:

- by providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class;
- by ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability;
- by providing a choice of tasks
- by communicating with parents about homework through the Topic information letters and feedback on completed homework.

How parents can help to support children:

- provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets;
- provide a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space, good light;
- provide encouragement and support to children when they require it;
- support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning;
- encourage their child and praise them when homework is completed;
- be actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular;
- sign and date their child's homework when it has been completed.

Pupils are expected to:

- tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude;
- take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected;
- be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school;
- make own decision about the tasks to complete when choice is offered;
- take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day. (Even our youngest children can do this, with a little support).

Feedback for pupils, parents or carers and teachers

As in all learning activities it is important that feedback is given to children as quickly as possible. This is given in a number of ways:

- immediately by parents or carers (when they work with their child and sign their homework);
- discussion in class where homework is a part of the class work;
- acknowledgment from teachers. This will be verbal or written on homework where appropriate;
- pupils reviewing the work done in small groups;
- presentation of homework in class and school assemblies.

Teachers are interested to know how children carried out the activities, whether they were too hard/too easy/interesting etc. The KS2 homework diary provides an ideal place for comments to be recorded. KS1 /FS pupils may wish to record their comments directly onto the homework page.

This homework policy will be reviewed annually.