

Homework Policy



Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the agreement of the Governing Body. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Spring Term 2019.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading and times tables. The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

Homework Tasks

Listed below, for each year group of Bassenthwaite Primary School, are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

Foundation Stage/Y1/Y2

These may include:

- Reading books and high frequency words. R/Y1/Y2 children are expected to read for 10-15 minutes daily and progress recorded by parents in the Home/School Reading Record.
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes.
- Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces.
- This age group will also receive a weekly literacy or numeracy based task.
- Real life numeracy related problems e.g. shopping, car, bus and house numbers, use of T.V. remote control.

Y3/Y4

- Children are expected to read daily for 15 minutes and to log their reading, with parental help.
- These children will receive either a literacy or numeracy task each week or a topic based research activity of 30 minutes' duration.

Y5/Y6

- Upper KS2 children are expected to read daily for at least 20 minutes and be responsible for recording reading progress.
- Each child will receive either a literacy or numeracy task each week or a topic/science based research activity of 45 minutes' duration.
- Weekly spellings and times tables will be expected to be learned.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a pre-school parents meeting or at an open evening if possible.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the cohort/Phase.

- To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To sign a home school agreement dealing with homework.
- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

At Bassenthwaite Primary Schools we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Bassenthwaite Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

General

- Wherever possible staff should try to mark any homework that is returned by pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well

they have met the objectives of the work. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.

- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. **In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.**
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
- _ Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or target group teacher.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in the Spring term 2022.

Signed ---*K. Miles*---- (Chair of committee)

Date -----06/02/19-----