

Lea and Garsdon CE Primary School Homework Policy

Healthy trees bearing good fruit - Matthew 7 v 17



Our Vision

To develop children who are healthy in body and mind, enjoy life and fulfil their potential so that they have a positive impact on the world.

Our Core Values

1. *Kindness*
2. *Wellbeing*
3. *Gratitude*
4. *Individuality*
5. *Community*
6. *Inspiration*

Policy adopted by the Governors on _____

Chair of Governor's Signature: _____

Headteacher's Signature: _____

Lea and Garsdon C.E Primary School Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework supports the development of a child's independent learning skills and is hugely valuable in providing children with the discipline and understanding that they will need throughout their working lives. Parental support and involvement at home is vital to support the teaching and education that children receive at school, so it is important that the school works together with the children and their parents to deliver a well organised homework programme.

Aims

- To raise standards in all subjects, with particular emphasis on maths and English.
- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self discipline needed for independent life-long learning.
- To help parents to actively support their child's education.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in maths and English.
- To give pupils plenty of opportunity to succeed.

Whole School Framework

For homework to have its full benefit it is important that there is a consistent approach both during the year and as children progress through the school, whilst recognising the changing purpose of homework as children get older.

At Lea and Garsdon CE Primary School the time allocation for homework is roughly:

All children are expected to read nightly as this is a key life skill, supports learning in all subjects and needs regular practise. Children should read daily to an adult as well as share books with others and listen to adults read. Years 5 and 6 children should read daily although it is not always necessary at this stage for the child to read to an adult. Once your child becomes a competent reader the adult role changes to focus more on the discussion and questioning around the book to ensure full understanding. We will give parents support with the best way to help their child with reading. Children should sign their reading record each time they read at home and parents should sign the reading record at least once on each page of the reading record (once a week).

In addition to this:

Years R and 1: 1 ¼ hours per week (i.e. five 15 minute sessions each week).

Years 2, 3 and 4: 2 hours per week (five 15 minutes each week plus 45 minutes on a task).

Years 5 and 6: 2 ½ hours per week (five 15 minutes each week plus 75 minutes on task).

Each 15 minute session should spend about five minutes each on spellings, maths number facts and Targets as directed by the teacher.

Homework may include the following activities:

- Wow Word Books (from Y2) – children are encouraged to copy down any really interesting words that they come across in their reading so that they can use them in their own writing. It is useful if parents find time to discuss these words and show the children how they can be used. These books should be kept in the child's book bags so that they can be used at home and at school.
- Spellings, times tables, number bonds or other work related to maths and writing targets.
- A maths and/or English task (this may be formal written work or opportunities to play games or use the computer to practise skills).
- Topic focused work – often included in 'pick and mix' style homework.

Organisation

1. Reading, Spellings and Maths and English Target work will be set each term throughout the year and should be practised regularly at home.
2. Parents should let the class teacher know if their child has met their target so that they can be checked at school and then moved onto the next one. Notes can be put in the reading diary or the homework book. Parents should also let the class teacher know if their child's spelling or reading books are regularly too hard or easy. This will be acknowledged by the teacher initialling the comment to show they have read it.
3. In terms 1,3,5 formal written homework for maths and English will be set from Year 2 onwards and may start to be introduced in Y1.
4. In terms 2 and 4 a 'Pick and Mix' style homework will be set. There will be a presentation day when the whole class celebrates their achievements and children from other classes come to see the work.
5. In term 6, only Y6 children will be set formal written homework, to help them to prepare for secondary school. This will allow the other year groups to make the most of the summer weather!
6. Formal written homework will be set on Wednesday to be returned on Monday, this gives time to complete homework either during the evening or at the weekends.
7. Each class will have a 'Homework' folder which will contain copies of the homework set and will store a named copy for anyone who was away on the day that it is given out.
8. Spellings will be set in accordance with the Spelling Policy.
9. Children will be encouraged to give an indication of whether the work was too hard, too easy or just right by filling in a traffic light (Y1+2) or a circle (Y3-6) to say how they found it. Red for too hard or too easy, orange for if they have almost got the idea and green if it was 'just right'.
10. Parents will be encouraged to write a comment if they had to help their child excessively and to say whether they thought the work was too hard, too easy or just right.

The Role of Parents

Here are some ways in which parents can support their child with homework:

- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework and that their child should try their best with the work set.
- Provide a peaceful place for pupils to do their work.

- Help their child when necessary or contact the school if they are unable to help their child - possibly by writing a note in the child's homework book or reading diary.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Sign completed homework or reading diaries and add comments to homework when necessary – for example it is useful for parents to say whether the work was too hard, too easy or just right.

Communication Between Home and School

The work will be marked regularly, with older children being involved in self-correcting and marking. Where appropriate an 'improvement point' will be given to show the child how to move on in their learning.

All children from Y2 will have a Homework Book for written work, a Wow Word Book, a Spelling Book and a Reading Diary. The Reading Diary should go home daily. Parents are invited to sign the Reading Diary to show that their child has read, and to communicate with the class teacher on any aspect of the homework given.

The school's expectations will be made clear to the children and the parents through:

- This homework policy.
- A letter sent to parents in September from the class teacher, setting out a homework expectations.
- Comments and notes in Homework Books and Reading Diaries.
- Regular reminders in Newsletters.

Differentiation

Where possible differentiation will be by outcome. However if this is not practicable, differentiated levels for an activity will be given as appropriate.

Assessment and Monitoring

All children who complete homework on time for the whole long term (3 terms a year) will be rewarded with a certificate. If homework is not returned three times within a long term a letter will be sent to parents to make them aware of this.

Endorsement of policy

This policy for homework was written in consultation with parents, children, staff and governors; with reference to 'Homework: Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools' written by the DFEE. It has been agreed by the teaching staff and governors of Lea and Garsdon C.E. Primary School.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

The curriculum Policy

The feedback on learning Policy and all other related policies.