



# Foxyards Primary School

'Learn to live, live to learn'

## Homework Policy

Drafted by: Mrs Helen Thomas, Headteacher February 2015	Approved by:
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The Homework Policy has been reviewed in the light of comments retrieved from parent voice, monitoring and advice provided from Ofsted (October 2014)

## **Introduction**

Homework is anything 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/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

## **Rationale for homework**

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing 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. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

## **Aims and objectives**

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 cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school with the support and enjoyment from family members;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

## **Types of homework**

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

In Reception children will have a book to take home. We ask that parents listen to their children read at least three times a week. We also believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers.

In Key Stage 1 we ask parents to support their child through home learning. This includes reading daily for about fifteen minutes. (Remember this can include sharing books and you reading to your child.) In addition, children will be given either a weekly Maths or Literacy activity to complete appropriate to the child's ability. Homework will be set on a given date and encouraged to come back to school on another given date. Homework is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning. For example, whereas a Maths task would be marked according to the school marking policy a topic research task may be shared in the lesson or used as part of a group activity. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. Guidance to parents will accompany homework set, however if parents/carers are

unsure they are welcomed into school to discuss with the class teacher. Maths and Literacy homework will be variety of tasks including practical activities for children to engage with at home. Family engagement homework will also be set each term. These will include open ended creative tasks that children can do as a 'family project' which will directly link to the Topic that term.

At Key Stage 2, we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined for Key Stage 1, including the reading activities specified above but we expect them to do more tasks independently. Children will generally have one piece of Maths work and one Literacy based task every week; there may also be homework related to Topic or Science. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood. Homework is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning. For example, whereas a Maths task would be marked according to the school marking policy a topic research task may be shared in the lesson or used as part of a group activity. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. Family engagement homework will also be set each term. These will include open ended creative tasks that children can do as a 'family project' which will directly link to the Topic that term.

### **None completion of homework**

If a class teacher feels a child has not completed homework for several weeks the following will occur:

Letter sent home from the head teacher informing the parent/carer of the issue. Within the letter the parent/carer will be invited into school to discuss any issues regarding the completion of homework at home.

The child will be placed on a 'attitude towards learning at home report' This entails the parent/carer to score between 1-5 the attitude the child shows at home towards learning, 1 being poor on a daily basis. If three 1-2 or put on the weekly record the child will be sent to the head teacher for further discussions

This report will continue until homework is completed and received by school regally.

### **Inclusion and homework**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

Children will receive a sticker/stamp for the effort or completion of homework

### **The role of parents and carers**

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and 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. Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them to ensure our 'Reading for Pleasure' awards are achieved by all pupils. If parents and carers have any 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 in which it is implemented, parents or carers should follow the school complaints procedure.

### **Use of ICT**

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our homework policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher in consultation with teaching staff.

February 2015

