

Ewelme C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Draft

Homework Policy

What is Homework?

We wish to encourage parents to complement their child's learning by continuing some of our school activities at home, just as we try to build on interests and attitudes which parents have begun.

Children work hard at school but only spend 15% of their life at school! We want them to learn through a wide range of activities, which might include hobbies and clubs and have time to read, talk, play, and relax.

When pupils are given a task to do at home we want them to regard it as important and for them to share the activity with those at home, while at the same time taking responsibility and ownership of the activity. Homework in the primary school years is something that parents and children do together with the child seeking advice from parents and family. In this phase of education, we would not wish our pupils to labour over the task and become disheartened.

Homework has been defined as "any activity that seeks to make effective links between home and school in supporting children's learning and development". The definition embraces a broad range of activities which includes:

- reading with a parent
- a family visit to a museum finishing off work from class
- going swimming
- undertaking individual research for a project at home or at the library
- learning number facts (tables)
- learning to ride a bike safely
- memorising a poem
- being an active member of a sports club or youth organization,
- practising on a musical instrument

Is Homework important?

Well planned homework for children can:

- build self confidence
- develop and widen their interests
- help develop good work habits and self-discipline;
- develop a positive approach towards books, reading and mathematics;
- provide opportunities for individualised work;
- help their parents gain insight into their schoolwork;
- offer access to resources not found in school (libraries, museums etc);
- assist preparation for future class work;
- practise and reinforce things learned at school.

What the School can offer

At the beginning of each term parents receive a class newsletter giving brief details of the areas of study to be undertaken by their children. It's intended that this information will help parents to be informed about their children's schooling and enable them to give support.

When teachers ask children to do a task at home, we seek to ensure that:

- the task is made clear to the children and matched to their ability;
- completion of homework of a high standard is praised;
- problems or difficulties encountered by children/parents are dealt with swiftly by the teacher in the first instance (and then referred to the head teacher if necessary);
- work is commented upon as promptly as possible or integrated into class activities;
- where appropriate, time scales for completion and submission are stated;
- in KS 1 each child has a reading diary where teachers and parents can make comments after sharing a book.

How Parents can help Children do their best with Homework

We would ask that parents give wholehearted commitment to supporting their children with homework. In doing so, families need to consider the following issues:

- When is a good time for homework to be attempted?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What aids concentration and stimulates their child to achieve best results?

Parents are asked to listen hard to the child's explanation of what they have to do and to discuss whether their help is needed and what form it should take.

If the child is struggling and becoming upset, the homework should be abandoned (and a note attached to it to this effect). If this is a regular experience, it should be discussed with the teacher.

Likewise if a child is finding homework too easy, the parent should make an appointment to talk to the teacher. In this case the teacher will be able to recommend sources for further work but is not obligated to create and mark further homework by themselves.

The School's Expectation for Homework

YEAR	READING	SPELLING	MATHEMATICS AND OTHER HOMEWORK
FOUNDATION YEAR 1	10 Minutes (daily) Book bags taken home and books shared. Parents to keep a reading diary and dialogue with teacher about reading	Only Later in Year 1 (5 mins daily-list of words) Sounds Boxes (once a week)	On Occasions Number or topic related activities
YEAR 2	10 Minutes (daily) Either child reading to parent or parent reading to child and talking about the book	Learning weekly spellings (5 mins daily)	(Optional) [On Occasions] Upto 20 mins a week State 'H' if Help given at home
YEARS 3 AND 4	15-20 Minutes (daily) Reading either to parents or to self. this may include discussion	Weekly spellings 5 Mins (daily) Sounds Boxes (once a week)	5 Minutes (daily) when extension required Mathematics - learning Times Tables (10 mins daily) More Able Children Problem Solving activities.
YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6	3 x Reading a Week (20 mins each) SEN- 5 x Weekly	30 Minutes (weekly) Practising spellings	Mathematics 20 Minutes (weekly) Out- Monday In- Thursday Literacy 20 Minutes (weekly) Out- Thursday In- Monday Occasional optional homework

Date agreed by Staff:

Date agreed by Governing Body:

Date for Review: