



Bitham Brook Primary School

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Policy Title	Homework Policy		
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At Bitham Brook Primary School homework refers to any work or activities which children are asked to do outside lesson time, usually with parents or carers. Bitham Brook Primary School is firmly committed to raising the attainment of all pupils in its school, and recognises the significant contribution homework can make to the personal, social and academic success of an individual pupil. All schools in the Westbury area believe in the benefits of homework and subscribe to the following views:

Homework means:

- a natural extension of work in school.
- work shared with parents and guardians.
- work done outside normal lessons.

Homework is important because:

- it provides an opportunity for dialogue with parents.
- it establishes a habit of independent working.
- it demonstrates that learning happens beyond the school.

Homework should:

- be well monitored and supported.
- be manageable for staff and students.
- meet the needs of individual children.
- be communicated to home by some form of diary.
- be regular, to establish the habit from the age of five onwards.
- have clear aims and expectations, understood by children and adults.

Implementation

In Foundation Stage children are expected to read daily with an adult. They will have key words to read and spell. Progress is monitored through dialogue in the PACT (Parents and Children Together) book.

In Year 1 children continue to read daily and have weekly spellings given out linked to their phonics. Progress is monitored through dialogue in the PACT (Parents and Children Together) book. Occasionally Numeracy or other activities related to work in school will be sent home for children to complete with adults.

In Year 2 children are encouraged to read daily, expected to read 5 times per week and learn spelling lists that are sent home weekly. Progress is monitored through dialogue in the PACT (Parents and Children Together) book. In addition, children are expected to complete an additional activity each week. This will be English and Maths based or occasionally linked to other areas of the curriculum.

In Key Stage 2, children are expected to read regularly. This will be recorded in their Reading Diary.

Children complete a piece of Brain Builders homework every two weeks. This takes the form of an open-ended question which can be answered in whichever way the children decide. The questions can be derived from any area of the curriculum being taught.

The homework activities we ask the children to complete:

- Encourage independence
- Enable adults to see the world from the child's perspective
- Are driven by the child and not the teacher
- Challenge the children and bring them together
- Develop and extend children's independence of learning

To support the process:

- All the relevant dates for each term will be stuck inside the front cover of the Brain Builders book each term.
- Children will receive their Brain Builder and then have about a week and a half to work through the task(s).
- Brain Builder tasks will still be supplemented by regular reading, word and number work.
- There will be opportunities during school time to review, share and discuss Brain Builder tasks.

There are times when it will not be appropriate to set homework such as when children have been, or will be, on residential trips or are involved in a production and need to learn scripts or song words.

Work will be set and take into account children differing needs and abilities. Children are encouraged to ask for clarification of the homework task if they are not sure what to do. Some children with Special Educational needs may be required to complete homework specified on their Individual Education Plan.

We note and acknowledge that some tasks set may involve "talking tasks" with no initial recording requirement.

We make reference to homework in the Class Information letters that go out 3 times a year.

Marking

KS1

The marking of homework will be carried out in a variety of ways, which will be appropriate to the task which might be:

- ✓ Teachers marking
- ✓ Teaching assistants marking
- ✓ Pupils marking their own work.

KS2

The homework is brought to class at a specific time to be shown in a 'Brain Builders Gallery' lesson. In this session children put their completed homework on their desks and the class walk around the room as if at an art gallery. They look at each piece of homework and identify good ideas and excellent effort. The teacher then leads the class in a celebration and analysis of which pieces of homework were successful and the reasons why. Children understand that this should be their own work and should show what they know and understand about a topic.

Teachers will make brief comments on each piece of work during the gallery session sometimes reflecting other children's comments and observations.

Non-completion and non-return of homework

Children may be asked to complete homework task at break time or lunchtime if not completed or returned.

The parent/carer will be informed if this is a regular occurrence.

Roles and Responsibilities

Leadership team

- To promote and publicise the homework policy
- To support staff, pupils and parents in homework
- To be aware of specific needs of carers.
- To monitor and evaluate homework policy

The class teacher

- To promote and support the homework policy
- To set and explain the homework task
- To mark and give feedback to pupils
- To report to parent/carers about homework

The Pupils

- To recognise the important part homework plays in their education
- To keep their parents/carers informed about homework
- To complete homework at an appropriate standard and return it on time.

The Parent/Carer

- To be aware of the homework policy.
- To provide their child with an appropriate working environment.
- To encourage and support their child.

Success Criteria

- Children will complete their homework tasks to a good standard.
- Homework will complement the work completed in class.
- Children will report they enjoy homework tasks.
- Older children will be prepared for transition to secondary school.