

Homework Policy Whole school and EYFS

Introduction

At Parsons Green Prep we recognise that homework is an integral part of a pupil's learning and an important link between home and school. For these reasons, homework will be set throughout the school, from Reception to Year 6, although naturally the nature of tasks and the time spent on them vary considerably depending on the age and aptitude of the pupil. We define homework as any 'work or task' that a pupil is set at school to do at home, whether formal or informal, and consider it to be an important part of every pupil's learning.

In Reception classes, informal homework tasks such as reading will be set as soon as appropriate for each pupil and parents are encouraged to work with their children and support them in these tasks. More informal homework is introduced gradually until Year 2, when the emphasis changes to include more formal tasks, in preparation for Key Stage 2 (KS2). In KS2, pupils continue to be set reading and learning homework and are also given mathematics and English tasks linked to work covered in school.

Our approach to homework varies for different year groups as well as for individual pupils (depending on specific needs). However, the one thing that remains constant is that pupils will benefit most when teachers and parents work together to help children achieve. For Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 (KS1) pupils we recommend that homework should be completed 15 minutes after getting home from school after a snack and a drink. Many studies have shown that homework completed straight after school results in better learning.

Aims

This policy aims to set out flexible guidelines for the types of homework appropriate at each stage of a pupil's education. It aims to establish a consistent and progressive plan for homework tasks throughout the school, whilst acknowledging that individual class teachers will need the flexibility to adapt it for particular pupils. It endorses the importance of a partnership between home and school right from the beginning of a pupil's school career and recognises that parents and teachers must work together to ensure that each pupil has the best possible learning opportunities.

It has been produced by a member of the senior management team and discussed and agreed with the teaching staff. It will be reviewed and updated annually.

Our main aims in giving homework are:

- To encourage good work habits from an early age.
- To develop in every young person the values, skills and behaviours they need to get on in life.
- To allow time outside the classroom for consolidation and revision.
- To involve parents in their children's learning.
- To maintain partnership between home and school.
- To extend pupils' learning outside the school environment.
- To encourage pupils to organise their work independently and prepare them gradually for the demands of secondary school.

At Parsons Green Prep, we aim to provide the best possible start for each pupil's education. Close links and continuity of support between home and school can only benefit them and us in this aim. By establishing a more 'formal' homework policy and sharing it with parents throughout the school, it is hoped that a greater understanding will be gained of how parents and teachers can work together to support pupils' learning.

Reception (EYFS)

During the first term in Reception, children will take home phonics homework to consolidate the sounds they are learning each week. When they are ready, children will receive a daily reading book so that parents can read to their child at home. Parents are also encouraged to help their child practise the 45 key spelling words, which they will receive at the beginning of term.

In the spring term a homework folder is sent home. It comprises of three simple activities which should only take 5 to 10 minutes each to complete. These activities may include a handwriting task, maths or literacy activity, and topic-related tasks. There is a week to complete these tasks. Homework in Reception is an extension to concepts covered in class and helps reinforce and consolidate learning. It is completed in lead pencil but pictures may be coloured. Parents may write comments on the homework to inform the teacher about the length of time taken to complete the tasks and how their child coped with the level of work. In the summer term, weekly spellings will also be sent home.

Key Stage 1

Homework is given in a folder weekly. Homework must be handed in to the class teacher on the designated day so that the teacher can mark and replenish homework for the following week. If homework is not handed in on the correct day it may not be marked until the next week.

Each pupil in KS1 has a book bag to carry their homework to and from school in and also a Reading Record Book and message book. A pupil's Reading Record Book will develop into a record of all the books they have read from the reading scheme and plot their progress throughout the year.

Parents are encouraged to listen to children reading daily and record this in the Reading Record Book. It is important for young children to read and enjoy their books, with plenty of discussion about the pictures and the story, so that reading is established as a pleasurable activity. The Reading Record Book should be used to keep a regular record and comments made should be of encouragement when appropriate. If parents have any concerns about their child's reading they should write it in the Message Book or see the teacher.

Year 1 and Year 2 children are given homework tasks that may be completed throughout the week. These consist of mathematics, spelling and topic work and the child should spend no more than 15 minutes per day/ evening completing. This obviously depends on the speed at which a child works; however, homework should not be a chore or become an issue within the household. If homework is difficult for a particular child and their family it should be kept to a minimum.

In summary:

Reception: Daily reading, literacy, maths and topic task

Year 1: Daily reading, spellings, weekly maths and literacy

Year 2: Daily reading, spellings and weekly maths

Key Stage 2

In KS2 parents are asked to continue their support by encouraging good homework habits and helping their children find a time when their homework can be completed without distractions. Parents should encourage their child to be more independent when doing their homework, with the emphasis on supporting rather than helping.

In KS2, our policy is to set more formal homework tasks. The number and length of these homework tasks builds up gradually towards the end of Year 6 and the time they are expected to spend completing it increases accordingly.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 receive homework on a Friday and return it on a Thursday. Homework is kept in a folder which contains all homework sheets along with a homework exercise book and a cover sheet explaining the tasks to be completed.

In summary:

Year 3: Weekly spellings, times tables, literacy and maths - approximately 15 - 25 minutes each day

Year 4: Weekly spellings, times tables, literacy and maths - approximately 25 - 40 minutes each day

Year 5 and 6: Weekly spellings, times tables, literacy and maths - approximately 40 - 60 minutes each day

Organisation

If homework is not completed satisfactorily without good reason, the teacher concerned may note this and arrange a suitable time for the homework to be repeated should it be felt necessary for the pupil's learning.

If homework is regularly not completed satisfactorily, the class teacher will contact the pupil's parents and discuss strategies to improve and support homework performance.

Holiday homework or extra work

No compulsory holiday homework is set at Parsons Green Prep. However, optional work may be sent home in Years 4-6. Rising Stars Study Guides, Bond Books, Schofield and Sims and Collins books are recommended for use if a parent wishes to reinforce the learning that has taken place in school. It will not be possible for these exercises to be marked by the class teacher.

General

If a pupil is absent from school because of illness we generally do not send work home on the assumption that they are not well enough to do school work. Parents are asked to contact the school once their child is feeling better, to find out if there is any work that needs to be caught up on.

If parents choose to take their child out of school for extra holidays, homework will not be given to cover the time missed.

Important information for teachers

Homework reflects your teaching skills and what has been done in the classroom. Homework MUST be meaningful and purposeful and meet the aims listed on page 2. It shows how organised you are and the way you mark work is reflected in the homework. Please ensure that you provide the correct resources when required.



This policy will be reviewed annually		
Reviewed: 25 October 2013	By: P. Hogg-Andrews	Changes: grammar and spelling corrections, clarification of practice, removed old guidelines.
Reviewed: 29 October 2014	By: J. Ainley	Changes: formatting and addition of new ISI guidelines.
Reviewed: 17 July 2015	By: J. Ainley	Changes: updates and clarification of practice, SLT input
Reviewed: 1 August 2016	By: Ryan McAvoy Checked by Lucinda Waring	Changes: updated length of homework expectations, holiday guidance book suggestions and wording of EYFS homework expectations.
Reviewed: 1 August 2017 26 September	By: Ryan McAvoy. By: Tim Cannell	Changes to homework in school for KS2. Homework no longer on timetable.
Reviewed: 30 August 2018	By: Ryan McAvoy	Missed homework may be asked to be repeated if felt necessary
Reviewed: 30 August 2019	By: Ryan McAvoy	Changes: none
Reviewed: 4 September 2020	By: Ryan McAvoy	Changes are none, however, we will be looking into more online homework to replace wasteful paper practices which currently happen. Nothing has been confirmed as of yet.
Next review: 4 September 2021		