

Together, we nurture the future

GREENMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Updated: Autumn 2017

Reviewed: Autumn 2018

Introduction

The Governors and staff of Greenmount Community Primary school believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. We believe it encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom as well as promoting independent learning thus encouraging the child to take great responsibility for their personal progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.

This policy is based on government guidelines which emphasise the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn. The guidelines include how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. Ofsted say that homework should only be set if it is appropriate to the needs of the children. The new framework highlights the importance of setting appropriate homework that has clear and relevant objectives, and which develops children's learning. The amount and type of homework we set here at Greenmount is at a level which we believe to be reasonable and manageable, as well as in line with the guidance provided.

Purpose of Homework

Homework is encouraged throughout the school. To be most effective, parents, carers, staff and the children need to understand its purpose.

- It reinforces skills which have been taught in school and gives children the opportunity to practice what they have learnt.
- It encourages perseverance, self-discipline and self-motivation as the children take responsibility for their learning
- It promotes independent learning, creativity and initiative.
- It provides teachers with the opportunity to support and extend the learning environment beyond the classroom.
- It sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school and future employment.
- It encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers.
- It encourages parents and carers to become involved in a partnership that involves learning.

Here at Greenmount, we value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a **strong** partnership between home and school which is reflected in the Home-School Agreement. We recognise that all children need leisure time

and hope that our policy reflects a **balance** so that children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time'.

Homework Schedules

Homework is given on a regular basis across the school following the schedule below. From time to time, homework may vary in response to a particular activity such as an educational visit. Homework content may be set as a written piece of homework or may include reading, games and activities to reinforce Literacy, Maths or other skills. For older children, homework may include finding out information, preparing a presentation, designing and/or making something, trying out a simple scientific experiment and solving problems. As with all work set, homework is monitored and results are recorded.

Homework tasks and expectations:

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Guideline & Amount of time</u>	<u>Tasks/Activities/Subject Areas:</u>
EYFS		Children will read daily. A Maths task, sound and/or word work will be set. This should be worked on for a few minutes each evening.
Yr. 1	1 hour weekly (10mins daily)	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy (spellings) and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 10 minutes each evening.
Yr.2	1 hour weekly (15 mins daily)	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy and Maths task/game/activity every week. Occasionally they may complete a relevant themed task. Time spent on homework should be up to 15 minutes each evening.
Yr.3	1 ½ hour weekly (20 mins daily)	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy (spellings) and Maths task/game/activity every week. Home leaning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term. Time spent on homework should be up to 20 minutes each evening.
Yr.4	1 ½ hour weekly (20 mins daily)	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy (spellings) and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 20 minutes each evening.
Yr.5	25 mins daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy (spellings) and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 25 minutes each evening.

Yr.6	30 mins daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete a Literacy (spellings) and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 30 minutes each evening.
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Responsibilities

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned to school on time. Teachers will offer opportunities throughout the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for children to complete. There will be an opportunity for children to complete unfinished homework during a lunch time period where there will be a member of staff present. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the children's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher. Class teachers will co-operate closely in their Key Stage Leads to ensure that similar content and expectations between classes is in place and that homework is consistent across the school.

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete tasks as instructed and make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- Ask for help as appropriate.
- Gain increased motivation and enjoyment through home learning.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.
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Parents and Carers should support their children by:

- Finding out about the weekly homework tasks by asking your child about their homework and looking at the homework book provided by the school.
- Providing a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, somewhere reasonably peaceful, with supervision if appropriate.
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school in explaining how it can help raise attainment.
- Providing activities that support the activities set by the teacher.
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard.
- Being actively involved in joint homework activities with the children.
- Communicate with the class teacher if you have any questions/concerns or contact the headteacher or senior leader if you have queries of a general nature regarding homework.
- Take your child to the library and provide opportunities for learning outside (walking, visits to the park, theatre...).
- Help your child to organise their book bags/school bags with their: daily reading book and Home School Record book.

- Sing the reading record book daily after reading completed at home.

The teacher will:

- Plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- Set regular homework activities which will include: reading, spelling and a mathematical task.
- Provide adequate and appropriate feedback to pupils through praise, encouragement, and feedback marking.
- Set high expectations of pupils in completing homework

The Headteacher will:

- Promote the school homework policy to staff, parents and pupils
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy

Home Learning:

Home learning should benefit pupils, parents and teacher by providing support and information to enable pupils to build confidence and make accelerated progress.

Reading

We would hope that all children at Greenmount read out loud daily (alongside the homework schedule) and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times and is not just confined to the total time spent completing homework. This would include fostering early reading skills, where appropriate. We want to continue to promote a love of reading in every child. We encourage parents and carers to discuss their children's books and ask questions about them to ensure that there is understanding of their book as well as accurate reading.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the homework policy is efficiently and effectively implanted within their class. This will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team in order to ensure homework is contributing to overall pupil learning and progress.

Inclusion

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current stage of learning.

Equal Opportunities

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or home background.

Our homework policy reflects the overall aims of the school and the way in which we value children taking initiative and responsibility for their own learning, motivated by their class work and then carried through in their own time and sustained by their own enthusiasm.

Review date: Autumn 2019