



Fairfield Community Primary School

HOMEWORK POLICY

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S LEARNING AT HOME

School recognises and values the family's central role in the education process, enabling school, home and community to work together. We aim to be recognised as a school which actively encourages a positive partnership between the home and the school to support children's learning. Fairfield is a good school and we believe that some forms of work taken home are necessary to help with children's educational development.

The school places great value on the role of teachers and parents working together as partners for the benefit of the children. Over many years there has been a tradition of parents actively supporting the work of the school, both in the classroom and at home, and this policy seeks to make a contribution to that on-going partnership and is based on Government guidelines.

Further information and guidance is available to parents on practical ways to support pupil's learning at home.

Purpose:

It has been agreed that the purpose of homework is:

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding thus extending school learning;
- To exploit resources for learning at home;
- To encourage children as they get older to develop personal organisation skills, positive work attitudes and personal qualities such as initiative, self discipline and self confidence, which will be needed in their future education.

The school strongly believes that the children, who are expected to work extremely hard during the day and then often go on to take part in after school and evening activities, need time to relax and talk to their families. Children need time 'to be children' at this young age and must be allowed to relax sufficiently in order to be able to come into school fresh, bright and ready to give of their best each

day. However, we do recommend a regular shared and enjoyable homework activity to take place at home whenever it is possible.

Definition:

In the context of this policy, homework refers to any work or activities which children are asked to do outside lesson time. These activities may be on their own or with the support of parents or carers. It refers not only to formal exercises but also to activities such as sharing books, playing games, doing challenges, developing thinking skills, carrying out investigations, searching for information, etc.

The school's main homework activities will revolve around literacy, numeracy and the themed curriculum and will be sent home once a week. Children who read regularly with parents are generally at an advantage - reading is the key to so much school work. The benefit of discussion with children at home also cannot be underestimated. We also believe that much benefit can be gained by discussing school topics at home, borrowing books and resources from the local library and searching the internet to encourage a more creative approach to learning.

To this end, our policy for sending work home is as follows:-

Early Years Foundation Stage (reception class)

- Children will take home a reading book and a book to share with their parents. The book may not be changed daily, but when appropriate;
- Children take home a sound book and as they get further on in the reading scheme they will take home key words sheets.

YEARS 1 and 2 (Key Stage One)

- Every day children take library and reading books home, these are changed when appropriate. Parents are asked to share the library book and listen to/guide their child with the reading book, then comment in the reading diary. Children who reach Stage 5 will take reading activities home too.
- All children will have key words to read weekly and some will be asked to learn to spell them;
- A set piece of Literacy, Numeracy or Theme homework will be sent home weekly;
- Children will sometimes be asked to access the school's Virtual Learning Environment, Fronter, to extend their learning.

YEARS 3, 4 and 5 (Key Stage Two)

- Reading books should be taken home each evening for on-going practice. Junior children may also take home a library book of their own choice to read/research. Reading Journals will be used by parents and teachers to make comments;
- A set piece of Literacy, Numeracy or Theme homework will be sent home weekly;
- Occasionally children are asked to investigate some topic work to be undertaken in class. A letter from the class teacher will inform parents in advance of the topics being covered;
- Children will sometimes be asked to access the school's Virtual Learning Environment, Fronter, to extend their learning.

Please note that children in Year 5 will be expected to take more ownership of their homework schedule and the amount of work sent home may increase during the year in preparation for transfer to High School.

Homework will not be set for children taking family holidays during school time. However, it would be useful for children to keep a diary of holidays if they wish.

If these areas of work are diligently undertaken at home, we believe they, in themselves, are sufficient to achieve the necessary balance between school work, homework and childhood.

Recommended time allocation:

The Government believes that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in Key Stage 1 should be designed to take, on average, about one hour a week. At Key Stage 2 the demands should gradually increase so that by Year 6 children are spending about 30 minutes a day (two and a half hours a week) on homework.

Years 1 and 2	1 hour a week
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours a week
Years 5 and 6	2.5 hours a week

Reviewing Committee	<i>Curriculum and Standards</i>
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