



Fairstead Governing Body Homework Policy

Date approved 6th December 2016

Date to be reviewed – see policy review checklist

The governors and staff at Fairstead believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. It encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom and promotes independent learning, thus encouraging the child to take greater responsibility for their progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school to work in partnership for the benefit of their children

The policy refers to commitments made in the home-school agreement

Purpose

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

- It reinforces skills that have been taught in school and gives children a chance to practise what they have learnt
- It encourages self discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning
- It promotes independent learning
- It provides opportunities for teachers to support and extend individual children
- It sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school
- It encourages children to share their learning with their parents and carers
- It encourages parents and carers to become involved in their children's learning

The **headteacher** will ensure that homework is:

- an integral part of the curriculum and is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning
- appropriate to the age, ability and circumstances of the pupils, taking into account special educational needs
- coordinated in order to be manageable for children on a daily basis
- informed by DfE guidance about time commitments.

Teachers will ensure that:

- homework is set and acknowledged in line with guidance and agreed standards
- tasks are differentiated and well structured
- pupils understand the purpose of the homework tasks
- it is clear to pupils how their homework consolidates and extends the work they are doing in school.

Pupils will be required to

- spend the allocated time completing the tasks set
- ensure that work is of good quality
- return their work on time.

Parents will encourage and monitor homework and inform their child's teacher if an issue arises

Assessment and Monitoring

- All homework will be collected and acknowledged on a regular basis.
- When homework is frequently missing or not completed, the child's parent or carer will be informed by the class teacher
- The **governing body** will receive an annual report from the headteacher that includes feedback from the surveys of pupils and parents.

Inclusion

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current stage of learning. Homework will follow the timetable for each year group, but will be differentiated to provide the appropriate challenge for each pupil.

Homework in Reception/Foundation Stage

Reading

Reading on a regular basis is vital for **all** children. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words, sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child. Reading books will not be changed unless the reading record has been signed.

Parents will be informed of the phonemes and high frequency words that the children are learning in school each half term through the curriculum newsletters and information displayed in the class windows/notice boards.

We would like to see all children having **fun** reading at home. This can be done in two ways:

Adults reading to children-

Parents are encouraged to use the books and information school sends home to read frequently with their child. All the flashcards and books are suitable to read to children. Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also very important.

Children reading to an adult-

When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language.

Reception children may also be asked to work on word flashcards, number recognition, or any number of one-off activities focussed on a particular topic.

How much time should be spent on homework?

As much as you feel your child is comfortable doing but try and do small amounts regularly rather than a lot at once.

High Frequency Words

Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1 which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight. Children may bring home some words each week for them to read,

write and learn. Parents can help children to learn these by practising them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further.

Try to do some reading every day and the spellings or other homework when it is sent. Ideally 10-15 minutes a night to ensure the children are not overloaded.

Homework in KS1/KS2

- Children will be given a menu for their homework each half term.
- Coverage should be based around the class topic where possible, but include at least one English activity, one Maths and one Science where appropriate.
- The menu will also provide opportunity for self-selected homework activities
- Children should be asked to complete a minimum of 4 tasks during the course of the half-term and will be encouraged to complete more if they wish to do so.
- Work should be acknowledged and celebrated in class but not marked in depth.
- Children will also be asked to read every day, learn their weekly spellings and their times tables.

Multiplication Facts or “Times Tables”

The New Mathematics Curriculum states that children should know all their times tables confidently by the end of Year 4. They should be able to answer random questions at reasonable speed.

There are a number of games and websites to help your child learn their times tables and CDs to sing or chant along to. Chanting times tables is a really good way to learn them as well as asking random questions. This activity is best done in short bursts. We really appreciate your support at home to help your child learn their times tables.

The following websites may be useful:

www.topmarks.co.uk

www.mad4maths.com

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk

Flexibility

Life in a primary school does not always conform to strict timetables. There will be certain occasions and weeks where school activities mean that homework may not be given exactly according to the timetable. Sports Days, Fundraising Days and more creative days in school may be structured slightly differently and it is important to get the balance between work and fun. However, we aim to keep to the homework timetable for most weeks of the school year.