

HOMework POLICY



Introduction:

We work hard to build a successful partnership between pupils, parents and staff because we believe that working together will ensure that all children receive a good education. To help this, we believe that it is important that children bring 'work' home from an early age. Children see parents and teachers working together and see that learning is important.

Aims of homework:

To involve parents and other adults in the family in children's work and progress.

To encourage children to develop independent study, organisation and self-discipline needed later in school and adult life.

To develop and extend those skills taught in the classroom which need to be practised.

To make homework: relevant, interesting, enjoyable, challenging and investigative.

Teachers will ensure:

- Each term a general information letter is sent to parents from the class teacher. This will include information about homework for the term, days when it is set and deadlines.
- Homework is set weekly unless in exceptional circumstances.
- Instructions for homework are clear, within the capabilities of all pupils and within the resources available to them.
- It is relevant to the learning in school.
- Completed homework is acknowledged once returned to school and feedback is given to the children.

Nature of homework tasks:

We believe that the minimum homework that all children should do across all age groups is regular reading. Being read to, sharing books and reading to an adult at home is the absolute foundation for homework as reading supports all areas of learning and develops the skill of 'reading to learn.'

Children will be set homework that relates primarily to English and Mathematics with the aim of consolidating basic skills in these areas. The homework tasks will link to current class work.

Spelling homework will vary with the overall aim of improving the children's spelling strategies so that they can apply them in their writing-

Week 1: A spelling investigation that is linked to the child's phonics/spelling work in school

Week 2: Practising for a spelling test that is based around High Frequency Words or spelling patterns appropriate to the child's ability and work covered in class. Children will be encouraged to use a range of strategies.

Maths homework will also vary:

Week 1: Multiplication work with the overall aim of improving children's knowledge, fluency and speed of recalling and using their multiplication facts (timetables). This maybe timetables work using Timetables Rock Stars which children either access electronically at home or the teacher can print hard copies for the children. This work may lead to a timetables test as and when the teacher feels is appropriately.

Week 2: Maths homework will be related to maths work the children have been covering in class.

Holiday homework

Children at Queensway will not be set holiday homework, other than reading as we encourage families to enjoy quality time together and experience other life opportunities. Year 6 is the only exception who may be set revision homework during holidays prior to SATs.

What happens once homework is returned to school?

All homework that is returned to school will be acknowledged by a member of staff and kept in the child's homework book or file. Teachers may choose to go through the homework as a whole class or group activity, without necessarily marking every individual piece. Therefore some work in the folder will not have teacher's marking on. Some work will be peer marked or discussed. Parents will have the opportunity to look at the book or file at parents evening or if they pop into class at the end of the school day.

What happens if homework is not completed?

Children are expected to talk to their teacher before the deadline if they do not understand the task so that the teacher can explain in more detail and the child can still meet the deadline. Parents are asked to tell the teacher if their child had difficulty completing the homework or was unable to complete it for another reason.

Teachers will, wherever necessary, include a model answer or step by step instructions in order to support parents understand the task in recognition of strategies being taught in school now are different from ones used in the parent's own schooling days.

Children at Queensway will not be punished for incompleteness of their homework. However, children who do complete their homework to a high standard will be recognised through the school reward systems.

Children on the Special Educational Needs Register or who are accessing additional interventions, e.g. Booster groups, 1:1 tuition

Individualised homework that relates directly to targets around a child's Pupil Profile or intervention may be set that supersedes the class homework.

Children who attend booster classes may also be set additional work by the adult leading the class which is aimed at areas they are working on during booster sessions.

Reading Record

Parents of children from Foundation Stage to Year 4 are asked to date and write a comment in their child's reading diary. This is in addition to reading records that the class teacher keeps in school, which is completed every time an adult hears a child read in school, this includes during guided reading sessions.

Children are rewarded for reading completed at home.

In Years 1-2 if a child reads five times a week they get a sticker to go on their reading chart, 5 stickers would mean that they have read 25 times and will then get a certificate presented to them assembly. Certificates are awarded as follows:

- 25= Bronze
- 50= Silver
- 75= Gold
- 100= Platinum
- 125= Commended Reader
- 150= Reading Worm

In years 3 and 4 the children carry out a reading challenge. To encourage the children to read at home they are asked to complete a reading task when they have finished a book; they are then given a raffle ticket which is entered into a prize draw that takes place three times a year.

In years 5 and 6 when the children have finished the book they were reading they will be asked to complete a booklet about their book. The sections within the booklet are encouraging them to think about the characters or the plot, what they liked in the book, new vocabulary they may have learned and whether they would recommend the book to a friend. These booklets will be kept in school in their reading record book. The same process of recognition and reward as years 3 and 4 will apply.

Could there be additional homework at any time?

All year groups may be set additional **topic related homework**, e.g. find out how many wives Henry VIII had or can you draw sources of light in your house. The amount of topic work will be age and ability appropriate. There will not be any cost implications for parents when completing homework tasks.

Unfinished work from during the school day will also be sent home if appropriate e.g. if a child has not completed work due to inactivity. It would not be sent home if the child found work too difficult.

Year 6 will be set revision homework through the class blog and will relate to work in revision guides which parents will be recommended to purchase at the beginning of Term 3.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Head Teacher and the Quality of Education Committee. Any alterations that come from this review will be discussed and ratified by the full Governing Body.

Chair of Quality of Education CommitteeDate

Head Teacher Date

Age Group	Activity and suggested time	Total time per week
Foundation Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book sharing 5 minutes a day for 5 days per week. Books are changed at least once a week, but more if parents ask. Children are given 1 levelled book and 1 real book from the class library. When a child reads at home the adult is asked to sign, date and write a brief comment in the child's reading diary. • Maths work 10 minutes a week. Practical activities linked to 'number.' • Phonics and tricky word lists. 10 minutes a week 	45 minutes
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 5 minutes a day for 5 days per week. Books are changed at least once a week, but more if possible. Children are given 1 reading scheme book and 1 real book from the class library. When a child reads at home the adult is asked to sign, date and write a brief comment in the child's reading diary. • Maths work 15 minutes a week. Linked to maths work in class. • Phonics work. 15 minutes a week. 	55 minutes
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 10 minutes per day for 5 days per week. Books are changed at least once a week, but more if possible. Children are given 1 reading scheme book and 1 real book from the class library. When a child reads at home the adult is asked to sign, date and write a brief comment in the child's reading diary. • Maths work 15 minutes a week. Each week, pupils are given appropriate maths homework, either based on the work in class which is designed to consolidate their learning or work related to timetables which they will be tested on. • Phonics work. 15 minutes a week 	1 hour, 20 minutes
Key Stage 2- Years 3 & 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 15 minutes per day for 5 days per week and this is to be recorded in their reading journals. Adult are asked to write a comment and sign the book when they have read with their child. • Maths 20 minutes a week. Each week, pupils are given appropriate maths homework, either based on the work in class which is designed to consolidate their learning or work related to timetables which they will be tested on. • Spelling work 15 minutes a week 	1 hour, 50 minutes
Key Stage 2- Years 5 & 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 15 minutes per day for 5 days per week. • English 30 minutes a week. Each week, pupils are given appropriate English homework based on the work in class. This is designed to consolidate their learning. • Spelling: 15 minutes a week • Maths 30 minutes a week. Each week, pupils are given appropriate maths homework, either based on the work in class which is designed to consolidate their learning or work related to timetables which they will be tested on. 	2hr, 30 minutes