



Eastcombe Primary School

Homework Policy

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day which contributes to their learning.

Aims

1. To enable the children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
2. To develop the children's skills as independent learners.
3. To maintain a strong home/school relationship in promoting learning.
4. To enable aspects of the curriculum to be explored and enriched.
5. To instil a level of self-discipline and commitment in children towards their learning.
6. To improve on the levels of attainment, particularly in the areas of English and Maths and by doing so improve the self-esteem of children.

Rationale

The aim of our teaching is to develop independent learners. Homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skills of independent learning and develop greater understanding. We recognise the importance of quality family time hence our policy aims to develop opportunities to be creative as well as academic. We believe that homework should be appropriate for the individual child and it should be a positive experience for the child and family.

Homework Tasks

There are various types of homework:

Reading

Reading is extremely important. Children should have experience of a range of books and reading material, which include the school reading scheme books as well as ones from the school, libraries, online ebooks and a range of reading materials such as magazines, newspapers, leaflets etc. It is important that children have access to a range of reading material, including poetry and non-fiction. All children in school are expected to read for at least 10 minutes daily. Younger children have a Reading Record and we expect the record to be signed, preferably along with a comment each time they have read at home. All children in Key Stage 2 have a reading journal.

Phonics and Spelling

Children in Reception and Year 1 follow a Phonics scheme. Application sheets are sent home so that parents can reinforce letter sounds taught in class and practise reading and writing. There is a high expectation within the new National Curriculum that pupils will learn many increasingly complex words and spellings. Different spelling patterns and strategies are introduced and practised. Learning at home is an extension of the practice in school. Children take home spellings so they can practise.

Mathematics

The school will set maths homework including e-learning homework to consolidate learning in class whenever teachers feel it is appropriate. Times tables facts should be known by the

end of Year 4. This means being able to say the answer to a multiplication or division question (up to 12x12) within 5 seconds. Therefore daily practice is needed and children will be tested regularly in school on their times tables facts using the 99 club.

Creative Homework

Creative homework is an opportunity for children to choose whatever they want to celebrate their learning. Tasks set offer choice, are open-ended and linked to different subjects, though all related to the current topic. These pieces of homework are not marked but will have been looked at and celebrated in school in another way –the work will have been viewed by the whole class. Peer assessment is used to praise and give steps for improvement and is an effective strategy for instant feedback. Creative homework is set every other half term and teachers provide information to their classes once homework is set through class newsletters and the website.

Some children following individual learning programmes may have additional homework.

Staff are always willing to suggest to parents how they can support their child's learning at home however school will not provide tasks such as worksheets for children to complete at home or whilst the child is absent from school on holiday.

Expectations/roles of parents

You could help your child with his/her homework by:

1. Providing a quiet area, or quiet time for your child to work.
2. Encouraging and discussing ideas for Topic Homework
3. Letting the class teacher know if there were any difficulties with the homework.

Expectations of children

All children are expected to complete homework set. Help will be provided by staff in school if children are struggling to complete tasks set or require extra explanation. Parents will be met with if a child persistently does not hand in homework.

Social, Moral, Spiritual Cultural Development (SMSC)/British Values.

We value and celebrate the diversity of our pupils and their families and we appreciate the enrichment that this often brings. Creative homework tasks are an opportunity to encompass this diversity. We actively promote personal liberty by allowing children to present work however they choose.

Agreed by staff September 17