



The Linden Centre

Homework Policy

Signed by:		
	Headteacher	Date:
	Chair of Management Committee	Date

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1. Policy on Homework

1.1 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

1.2 2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper 'Excellence in Schools', in which homework was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 2.2 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

1.3 3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:

to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;

to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;

to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;

to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;

to provide educational experiences not possible in school;

to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;

to help children develop good work habits for the future.

1.4 4 Types of homework

4.1 Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

4.2 We set a variety of homework activities.

Homework should be set weekly. The amount of homework also progresses throughout the school.

KS1- Daily reading /sounds, spellings, 1x Numeracy, 1xEnglish per week

KS2- Daily reading, spellings, 1x Numeracy, 1xEnglish per week + 1 Topic task

KS3- Daily reading, 1 piece of homework per subject per week

KS4- Daily reading, 1 piece of homework per subject per week + ongoing revision tasks

4.4 Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised through our 'merits' programme. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

4.5 We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

1.5 5 Amount of homework

5.1 As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15–20 minutes per night on homework, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night. This is in line with the DCSF guidelines that were issued in 1998.

5.2 We give all our pupils a homework book in which their weekly tasks are affixed and explained.

5.3 Individual class arrangements are communicated to parents/carers at the beginning of each academic year with termly updates as appropriate.

5.4 Pupils earn 'points' when completing their weekly homework tasks-these reflect the level of effort and pride they have put into their tasks. Pupils can also earn 'bonus points' if they choose to complete 'Independent Learning Projects' which tend to be linked to topics. Each week, prizes are awarded in a celebration assembly to recognise the 'points' accrued by pupils.

1.6 6 Inclusion and homework

6.1 We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Personal Education Plans (PEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

1.7 7 The role of parents and carers

7.1 Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite

them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

7.2 We ask parents and carers to check the home–school reading diary and sign it daily. Homework books should be checked weekly to ensure that set tasks have been completed to at least a satisfactory standard.

7.3 If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the governing body.

1.8 8 Use of ICT

8.1 The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

8.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

8.3 Some of the most important educational software that we use in school can be bought by parents or carers on a home-user licence. This ensures that children are using age-appropriate software in their work at home. The school will supply interested parents or carers with details.

8.4 We discourage children from bringing memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is e-mailed to the teacher at school.

1.9 9 Monitoring and review

- 9.1 The senior leadership team is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. They regularly inspect samples of the children's work and of the teachers' planning.
- 9.2 It is the responsibility of our Management Committee to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by The Management Committee, discussing curriculum needs with SLT. Parents and carers complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our Management Committee pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our Management Committee may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way in which homework is organised in our school.