



**Greenfields Primary School**

**Homework Policy**

## Approval

<b>Signed by Head teacher / Chair</b>	<i>Kate Day</i>
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## **Aims of the Policy**

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parent /carers
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- To ensure that parents / carers have a clear understanding of how they can support their child/ren
- Extend and support the child's learning, basic skills and knowledge (particularly in Literacy and numeracy) through reinforcement and revision
- Provide opportunities for the parents/carers, pupils and school to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to enjoy learning experiences together
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly numeracy and literacy
- To extend school learning
- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline required for individual study
- To prepare the children for the demands of secondary school and their future lives.

## **Rationale for homework**

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. At Greenfields we recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and in school. Indeed, we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. We want children to develop as independent learners and believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge that free time plays an important role in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in a wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than in school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make the maximum use of experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

## **Content of Homework Given**

The main focus of all homework throughout the school will be literacy – including reading, writing, spelling and handwriting, as well on occasion, talk homework; and numeracy. As a child moves through the school this will continue to be the main focus. Occasionally there will be the addition of other subjects such as science and humanities should the need arise. We aim to have a balanced approach to homework that combines both formal and more creative tasks. Some homework will require the use of a computer, but for those families who do not have access to this resource, a school homework club is available.

Compulsory homework during the school holidays will not be set, but may be given at half term in years 3 and above. This may include more creative homework such as projects. However, we expect that children will continue to read with their parents/carers during all holidays, either a reading scheme book from school or other chosen texts from home or a library appropriate to their age. Please record and sign the children's Reading Logs to show the daily reading completed at home.

## Expectations for Homework at Greenfields

Homework will be set every week in the following areas:

Reading	Minimum 4 times a week
Spellings	Weekly
Mental Maths	Number bonds - Nursery and Reception when staff feel your child is ready Times Tables - Weekly from Year 1 up

Below is a guide to the approximate time we expect children to be spending on their homework tasks:

Year Group	Tasks	Time
N/R	Daily Reading	10 minutes including shared reading and questions
	Literacy / Numeracy activity	15 minutes a week
1	Daily Reading and Spellings	15 minutes including shared reading and questions
	Literacy / Numeracy activity	15 minutes a week
2	Daily Reading and Spellings	25 minutes including shared reading and questions
	Literacy / Numeracy activities	20-30 minutes a week
3	Daily Reading and Spellings	25 minutes including shared reading and questions
	Literacy / Numeracy activities	30 minutes a week
4	Daily Reading and Spellings	25 minutes including shared reading and questions
	Literacy / Numeracy activities	30 minutes a week
5	Daily Reading and Spellings	30 minutes including shared reading and questions
	Literacy / Numeracy activities	30 minutes a week
6	Daily Reading and Spellings	30 minutes including shared reading and questions
	Literacy/ Numeracy activities	Up to 1 hour a week

Please note this is a guide and times are different for each child dependent on their needs. Please do not insist that the children complete excessive amounts of homework. If you find the tasks being set are not achievable in these rough guidelines, please speak to your child's class teacher.

The above timetable applies equally to children with special educational needs. Children who need extra support will receive differentiated tasks to meet their learning needs while they may also be given additional tasks to reinforce their learning. This may mean they are given different homework to other children. Home school link books are maintained for some children and serve to increase the communication between parents/carers and school staff.

All children are provided with a spelling book into which their spelling homework can be done through the form of Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check columns. There is also the space for children to create sentences with their spellings should the class teachers request this (this may be the case when spellings are very challenging or they are rarely used words which need clarity). All children are provided with a reading log for books to be recorded and for parents to sign and state which pages have been read, or alternative reading shared. This book must be signed every day when children read at home. By year 6 this book also doubles as a homework diary to record additional homework requested by the class teacher to support in school learning.

Any child who continuously fails to complete homework in Key Stage 2 will be required to stay in during playtime to complete the task. This is referred to as a 'working break'. Parents and carers will be informed through the reading log if this has happened, and will be asked to attend a meeting at school regarding support and homework should this happen more than 3 times in a half term. Children are not given homework if they are ill or absent for any other reason, unless in exceptional circumstances.

### **How to help your child with their homework:**

- Plan when in each day you will complete the homework with your child
- Ensure that reading and literacy/numeracy homework happens 4 times a week to best support your child with their learning
- Provide a suitable place for your child to work and encourage working without close supervision, when appropriate, in order to gain independence. However, parents should always ensure that they are able to supervise homework involving the internet in line with the safer use of ICT as outlined in the schools ICT and E-Safety Policies
- Tell your child how long they have got to spend on the work when they start and invite them to show you what they have done at the end of the time
- Check over work and acknowledge where mistakes may have been made. Do not correct them, but talk them through with your child
- When researching articles on the internet for information, encourage children to reword facts and information into their own words to ensure they have understood what they have read.

### **The Role of Parents and Carers**

Parents/Carers are asked to provide a suitable place in which homework can be completed and to support their children when necessary either through working with them or encouraging them to be independent. It is essential that parents/carers make it clear to their children that they value homework and are willing to support the school with their approach. This includes encouragement and praise at all levels, in line with our growth mind set guidance where effort and attitude are praised.

Whilst parents'/carers are encouraged to support their child, it is important to stress that most 'formal' exercises should be done without adult assistance. If help is given, please note this in the reading log / homework book to inform the teacher. If you do have any concerns regarding homework, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We do expect all parent's/carers to record daily reading in the reading log and for this to be signed.

### **Marking**

Wherever possible, class teachers will mark homework promptly and will always keep track of who has completed homework. Feedback will be given on how well they have met the objectives, but this

may be done in a variety of forms, some of which may not be written. Feedback may be given on and individual or group basis. Exceptional effort in homework will be rewarded through the use of stickers or points.

It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The policy will be reviewed bi-annually with staff and then passed through the Governing Body for ratification.