

LONGMAN'S HILL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY – May 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the school's policy for the provision of homework to pupils. At Longman's Hill Community Primary School we recognise the vital role parents play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the value of home-school partnership, of which our homework policy is an important element.

2. HOMEWORK – A DEFINITION

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. At Longman's Hill, we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.

3 RATIONALE FOR HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. 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 to them outside school.

4. THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Our school regards the purpose of homework as being:

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics
- To extend school learning and enable some aspects of the curriculum to be explored further, independently
- To develop the skills necessary to become an independent learner

Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability.

We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

5. TYPES OF HOMEWORK

The amount and type of homework which children are expected to complete will depend on age and ability of the child. Homework tasks will be differentiated where appropriate so that all learners can complete tasks given.

FS2

- Reading – children will be provided with a suitable book to read to parents at home. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to their child read. Children should read to an adult at least 3 times per week at home.
- Phonics – linked to the week's graphemes / words – sent home in a word book
- Weekly update about the week's activities with ideas for parents to try at home.

KS1

- Weekly phonics homework or 'support for spelling' homework – this will be based on new graphemes or spelling patterns learnt during the week and will be differentiated at least two ways.
- Weekly maths game or activity
- Reading - children will be provided with a suitable book to read to parents at home. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to their child read. Children should read to an adult at least 3 times per week at home.
- Another piece of homework may be given such as topic / literacy but not on a weekly basis.

KS2

- Weekly 'support for spelling' homework – this will be based on new spelling patterns learnt during the week and will be differentiated at least two ways.
- Weekly maths game or activity
- Reading - children will be provided with a suitable book to read to parents at home. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to their child read.
- A half termly project linked to the curriculum theme which contains an element of writing.

The majority of homework tasks will be completed in a homework book.

6. INCLUSION AND HOMEWORK

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' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

7. THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CARERS IN SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

Role of the school

- Monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy
- Support parents with the newer methods of teaching in English, Phonics and Mathematics by offering parent meetings to put into context the development of English and Mathematics skills from FS2 through to Year Six

Role of the class teacher

- Plan homework as an integral part of curriculum.
- Inform parents of homework expectations through half termly class newsletters
- Match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children
- Recognise homework achievement – children completing homework will be given smileys
- Ensure homework is checked, acknowledged and given back to the child in a timely manner

Role of the parents/carers

The school recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities.

To avoid 'battles' over homework we recommend:-

- that children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace;
- acknowledgement should be given to their own interests;
- the task is undertaken at an appropriate time when the child is best able to concentrate;
- your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks;
- that work at home is perceived as a shared activity;
- work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes;
- homework should not be used as a threat or punishment.

Your HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT and PRAISE are the key to success.

We ask you to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone, or more often for younger children, together with an adult.

We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult. Give support and help but do not do the work for the children. Please support children in completing tasks and return work in a tidy presentable state.

Concerns

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If you have any concerns about the levels of homework or the content etc., please see your child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about homework; if there is a problem come in and speak to the teacher about it.

11. INFORMING AND CONSULTING PARENTS AND CARERS ABOUT THE HOMEWORK POLICY

The school will use newsletters to inform parents and carers about the school's homework policy and secure their involvement. The Homework Policy and useful information for parents in supporting their child's learning will be displayed on the new School Website. Parents' evenings will be used to promote this partnership and obtain feedback e.g English, phonics and Mathematics workshops, New Intake Evenings.

12. REVIEWING THE POLICY

The homework policy will be reviewed every two years. Where **significant changes** to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the governing body and parents consulted.