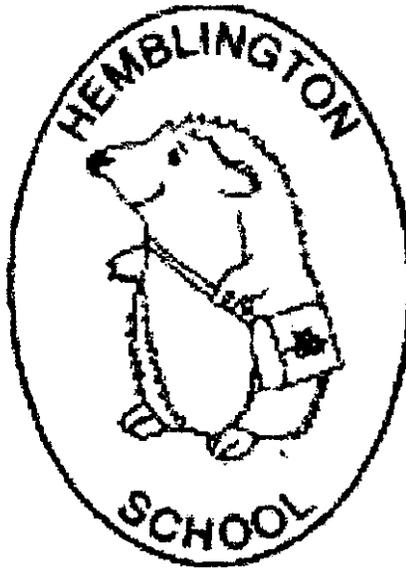


Hemblington Primary School



Homework Policy

Signed:

Date Reviewed: June 2018

Next Review Date: June 2020

POLICY

What is homework?

We believe homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Homework has a role to play in helping children to get the best from their school experiences; homework should be a positive experience, and may take many forms. It aims to consolidate and build on learning done during the school day, and for our pupils a main focus will be on reading.

Through this policy we aim to:

- (a) ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- (b) ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- (c) ensure the needs of individual children are taken into account;
- (d) ensure parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and pupils;
- (e) extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision;
- (f) provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- (g) provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- (h) encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently and prepare them for transfer to secondary school.

Time allocation

There is now no allocation of time for homework recommended by the government. At Hemblington we believe homework should be a regular part of a child's learning, particularly in the case of reading.

We believe it is essential for all primary aged children, even fluent readers, to read to parents/carers regularly and have the opportunity to discuss the books they have read with them. This is the most essential element of homework, and for children up to the age of at least 9, should take place daily. It is extremely important for parents to discuss the text/pictures at all levels of reading ability. Once the child becomes fluent, they may like to read on their own for up to 20 minutes a day on some occasions, but reading to a parent or carer should still take place twice a week as an absolute minimum, and preferably daily. Other homework tasks may be set in addition to reading, but reading remains a priority.

Year R	Sharing books, sound work activities to learn phonemes and sight words. Listening to children read and discussing the pictures. Simple number games
Year 1 and 2	Daily reading to parent or carer for 10 minutes; spellings weekly (phonic work for Y1 initially). Occasional piece of homework to be done with parents (eg finding information or items for class work)

Year 3 4	Daily reading to parent or carer (10-20 mins in addition to HW time). Spelling One piece of literacy/topic work <u>or</u> one piece of maths work a week (these may be practical activities and maths and English may be set on alternate weeks in Y3)
Year 5 6	Daily reading by the child to a parent or carer, which is in addition to HW time allocation (for fluent readers, children may occasionally read to themselves, but parents/carers should listen to reading a minimum of twice in each week). Spelling and spelling activity. One piece of literacy/topic work and one piece of maths work a week (these may be practical activities, research, consolidation of class work)
Year 6	Spring term – targeted revision for SATs

Special Needs

Children with special needs will generally be set tasks similar to their peers, but appropriate to their ability. Consultation with parents or carers will be undertaken about homework provision if necessary.

Planning and Co-ordination

Class teachers will be responsible for the setting of homework.

Care will be taken to ensure that the demands of homework on children and parents or carers are manageable; we strongly believe that children work hard at their learning in school, and need time to relax and play at home.

Teachers will ensure that children are given a sufficient number of days to complete homework tasks.

The demands of homework may vary over the year, depending on other events that children are participating in and the cycle of learning. In particular, reading will be the principal form of homework between summer half term and the end of the academic year, as this is when teachers are preparing reports, and children are taking part in a range of other learning activities such as residential and other visits.

The Role of Parents and Carers

Homework is most effective when parents or carers:

- provide a suitable place in which children can do their homework; this should be a quiet area away from distractions;

- support the school in valuing homework and encouraging its completion to a high standard;
- encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework;
- draw the distinction between helping the child and doing the work for them;
- understand that too much homework is not helpful for motivating learning;
- understand that homework sometimes provides a benchmark for the adult to show the level at which your child is working – in some cases, a child may not be able to complete the whole task.

To be most effective, an adult should be available to support the child whilst they do their homework, working alongside when appropriate to motivate and encourage. This will be essential for the youngest children, those who find some aspects of the curriculum more challenging, and for reading.

Responding to Homework

Homework will always be valued in recognition of the time and effort children, parents and carers have made. We will strive to maintain children's motivation. Teachers will plan a response to ensure this; detailed written feedback will not be appropriate in most cases. A homework reminder slip may be issued, at the teacher's discretion.

Recording Homework

Teachers will make appropriate provision for the recording of homework for the children in their class; this will depend on the age of the children and the nature of the task. Teachers take note of which children complete homework; if a child consistently fails to complete homework, appropriate reminders will be sent home and the child may be required to complete the work in school time. A slip is attached which can be used as necessary.

Review

The homework policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if required.

Homework Reminder Slip

_____ has not completed the following homework

- (a) on time,
- (b) to a satisfactory standard:

Task

Please sign and return this slip with the completed homework.

Signed _____