

HAZEL OAK SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

VISION STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Vision Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Hazel Oak School, valuing all pupils equally.

Vision Statement

At Hazel Oak School we believe our students deserve the very best and therefore we endeavour to provide a school that:

- Responds to the changing needs of your young people and society.
- Creates a happy and secure environment.
- Offers a stimulating curriculum enabling students to make the best possible academic and personal progress.
- Values partnership with parents so that together we can support and celebrate the progress of our young people.
- Works with the community in order that our students may live successful independent lives within their setting.

We value the efforts and accomplishments of our children in all areas of their lives!

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

The Government believes that there is enormous advantage in children spending regular periods of time on different learning activities devised by schools as part of a homework programme which supports the work they do in school. The Government's White Paper "Excellence in Schools" proposed that national guidelines on homework should be published and the publication Homework: Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools (1998) was the result. Inspections by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) look at whether homework is used effectively to reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school.

At Hazel Oak School we support the importance of homework and agree that the purpose of homework is:

- to provide pupils with practice in aspects of class work;
- to enable pupils to become independent learners;
- to encourage pupils to manage their time;
- to foster a partnership between home and school;
- to provide parents with an opportunity to share in their child's learning;
- to enable parents to be involved and informed about the type of work being undertaken in class.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

A wide range of homework activities are set depending on the subject and the age of pupil.

In Key Stage 1 pupils start with regular reading with parents and related activities to support reading e.g. phonics and spellings. In Key Stage 2 they will be also be completing occasional homework in topic areas as well as weekly spellings and daily reading. By Year 6 they are expected to complete homework in English, Maths and Science. Below are some examples

- Reading with an adult including discussing aspects of the book
- Games or activities to practice literacy, maths or other skills
- Finding out information about a topic e.g. talking to a grandparent about their experiences of the past for history
- Preparing for a presentation, e.g. bringing in something from your holiday to talk about what you have done or seen
- Finding out information, e.g local amenities, web-sites,

In Key Stage 3 homework tasks will include:

- Weekly spellings
- Multiplication tables
- Maths games to practice skills
- Handwriting practice
- Activities to support use of phonics
- Extended writing
- Practical tasks e.g. designing or making something
- Worksheets related to the work in class
- Revision of a skill or concept
- Preparation for the next lesson, e.g some ideas for a poem
- Consolidation of work covered that week

In Key Stage 4 pupils are expected to have developed the study skills to work with a greater degree of independence. Examples of homework set include:

- reinforcement of class work;
- research topics and investigations;
- preparation for class work;
- reviewing, redrafting or summarising a piece of work;
- activities related to personal and social development;
- preparation for a presentation
- trying out a simple experiment or observation
- solving a problem
- completing work begun in class

THE FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF HOMEWORK

The Governors and staff of Hazel Oak School recognise the need for children to have the time to follow out of school interests and family activities and the attached guidelines and time allocations allow for these important things to take place. This has been particularly important when deciding on the days when homework will be set and collected.

KEY STAGE 1& 2

In the early years at Hazel Oak, homework will mainly consist of reading or reading related activities. By J4 pupils need to prepare for expectations in KS3. For this reason the frequency and duration of homework will increase each term. In the Autumn Term pupils will be required to complete homework in English, Maths and Science increasing in the Spring Term to include humanities or ICT, PSHE. By the summer term they will be getting homework each night. Reading of course will also be expected to be regular plus additional supporting work e.g. spellings. A teacher may set occasional homework in other subjects to support class work. Each piece of homework to be expected to be completed in 10 minutes then increasing to 15 and 20 minutes.

KEY STAGE 3

The homework timetable is set and sent home at the beginning of the school year so that all students and staff know what the expectation is.

KEY STAGE 4

MARKING AND FEEDBACK

Pupils need to know that their homework is valued; they need feedback on how well they have done and what they could do to improve their work. This is usually covered during a subsequent lesson. Occasionally teachers may give a written comment.

EFFECTIVE HOMEWORK:

- Is differentiated to suit the learning needs of all pupils
- Has a clear instruction to remind pupils what they need to do and with notes for parents if they need to assist to get pupils started.
- Is planned as part of a series of lessons to support learning
- Is valued by staff and parents
- Has a clear purpose

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAFF

- Subject teachers have an obligation to set regular, purposeful and planned homework which is effective in supporting learning
- Subject teachers mark homework and provide high quality feedback to pupils

- Subject teachers monitor pupil's homework and provide rewards and sanctions
- Teaching Assistants keep a copy of the homework set to help to check and track for pupils and teachers.
- Key Stage Managers monitor homework set in their Key Stage for quality and quantity

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUPILS

- To use their homework diaries independently to note down details of homework set.
- To complete homework to an acceptable standard.
- To seek help if they do not understand a task set.
- To return homework on or before the date set.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS/CARERS

Parents and carers should be encouraged to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which a child can do homework.
- make it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Give any specific additional support required by a pupil, e.g. reading instructions, to help them to access and complete their homework.
- Check and sign homework diaries and planners.

REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

Staff may reward pupils with house points or stickers either for a high quality piece of work or for consistently making an effort to complete homework set. Sanctions are occasionally imposed for those pupils who consistently fail to complete homework. This usually takes the form of staying in during break time to catch up on homework set.