

Homework Policy

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HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

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Policy details

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Aims of the policy:

This policy represents the agreed principles for the provision of homework within Hydesville Tower School.

The policy sets out the importance of homework, the aims and objectives and amount of homework to be expected for each year group through the Preparatory School.

It is recognised that homework is an important part of a pupil's education and useful for consolidation and extension of work covered in class, as well as preparation for the next steps to be taken by the child. It strengthens the educational partnership between the teacher and the pupil and provides parents with an opportunity to share and support their child's learning. It is also a means by which progress can be monitored. Homework promotes self-discipline and independent study. The aim of this policy is to set out our expectations, as a Prep School.

Rationale for setting homework

- To enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To encourage and develop self-discipline and independence towards their studies.
- To prepare pupils for their lessons and further study in later years by instilling good practice early on in their education.
- To enhance and extend work done in class and to prepare pupils for the next steps in their learning.
- To promote good links between home and school.

Our good practice

- Teachers will provide an explanation of homework tasks and ensure that each child is clear about what needs to be done.
- Homework activities relate directly to the curriculum and inform future lessons.
- Homework activities are practical and should be shared, discussed and completed with others at home (parents, carers etc.)
- Homework will be differentiated to the needs of the child where appropriate.
- The homework policy will be reviewed regularly.
- Parental and teacher feedback and communication will be recorded in the child's Homework Planner.
- Homework will be set regularly. Teachers will notify parents of the set and hand-in days for homework.
- Pupils will be rewarded for homework effort and attainment.
- If homework is not completed on repeated occasions, parents will be notified (in the form of a letter from the class teacher) of the effect this is having on home/school links and its importance in a child's learning development. However, it is acknowledged that motivation to complete homework tasks will increase if completed in collaboration with a parent and if the homework task itself is interesting, challenging and practical.
- An after-school club operates and pupils who attend are given the opportunity to do their homework under supervision.

Suggested/example homework activities

- Gathering resources and materials for forthcoming lessons or to enhance learning in the theme or for display.
- Focused academic tasks.
- Research for the theme.
(The above may include outdoor learning activities e.g. walks, visits, wildlife spotting) etc.
- Pre-reading a set text prior to a lesson.
- Investigation games/problem solving activities.
- Practical “making” or “investigating” activities or projects.
- Preparation for speaking and listening sessions.
- On-line activities (such as research, educational games) or film making activities – if a child is unable to gain access to the Internet or ICT, they will be given a paper-based alternative.

Suggested time and frequency of set tasks

Please refer to the attached schedule for the allocation of homework for your child’s year group within the Preparatory School. Each day, homework will be set and written down by the pupil in his/her planner. The homework will also appear in a corner of the board to enable children to check that they have written everything down correctly and as a reminder of things they need to pack to take home with them. The hand in dates for each piece of homework are also recorded in the pupils’ planners and these should be signed daily by the parents, again encouraging parents/carers to ensure that they support their child to complete set work on time.

Independence

Pupils are encouraged to complete their homework independently. In the case of homework which is set following on from learning in class, this is important as it acts as an indicator to the teacher that the learning has been understood by the pupil. Support from parents however is encouraged for research and preparation for lessons.

Reading

It is expected that time will be allocated each evening for reading. The younger members of the Prep School may benefit from shared time with parents/carers to read and discuss their story before they go to bed.

Marking

All homework will be handed in for marking, as directed by the teacher in charge of the class.

The role of the parent/carers and the pupil

Homework should be seen as an extension of the school day and the opportunity to make independent progress. It is expected that pupils will be supported to achieve set work and that parents will become involved in hearing their children read every day and learning the fundamentals such as times tables and spellings. Any concerns from parents should be taken up directly with the class teacher. The parents and carers should regularly check the homework diaries and sign to say that all work has been completed or to provide a written explanation to the teacher if any difficulties have been experienced. Non-completion of homework without a written note is unacceptable.

The child should ensure that they have everything they need to complete homework each day. They must also make sure that they understand the tasks that have been set. They should hand their homework in on time, taking into account any feedback given to them previously.