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**DPS Homework policy**

**Rationale**

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to their development. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop skills as independent learners; homework is a way in which children can acquire these skills. Homework is not new learning, rather an extension and consolidation of the work covered in the classroom. Homework is also anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning.

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.

**Aims**

The aims and objectives of homework are:

* to enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
* to help children develop the skills of an independent learner;
* to promote cooperation and communication between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
* to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
* to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
* to help children develop good work habits for the future.

**Consultation with parents, staff and pupils**

The majority of staff, pupils and parents regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum which allows there to be a link between school and home; parents have a greater insight into what the children are learning and children have the opportunity to share their learning with those at home. Through the consultation process it became clear, for the most part, that the current homework did not motivate the children. All parties reported that the children showed greater motivation to complete homework when there were a variety of tasks including arts and crafts, research activities, creative activities, etc.

Parents and children both stated that in the busy lives they all have, it would be beneficial to have longer to complete homework tasks as extra-curricular activities are also important in the life of the children.

The over-riding feeling from parents was that there was no consistency in the types, levels, frequency of homework given out throughout the school. They felt that homework as it stands does not provide an accurate picture of what the children are doing in school, they do not see the relevance in it. Also, due to the nature of the homework currently being given, there is little progression throughout the years.

All parties decided that homework should be planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning and that the children will be involved in the planning of their homework as well as other aspects of their learning.

During consultation it was also established that one of the barriers to completing homework, as well as time, was lack of resources; especially for more creative tasks as well as access to ICT.

During consultation it was decided that homework will not be given out the first and last week of term. Homework will take the form of a grid and will be given out on a 3-4 week basis, dependent on the length of the term. There will be a week in between handing in homework and the new grid being distributed to allow for the teacher to provide feedback to the children on that which has been submitted.

All children will be given a homework jotter to complete their tasks, however, not all homework will be done in the jotter, depending on the task. Homework should be signed by parents/carers.

**Types of homework**

The children will receive a grid with a variety of homework tasks. Some tasks will be compulsory and the others will allow the children to choose the order and manner in which they complete them therefore, providing personalisation and choice in how they approach their homework. Compulsory tasks will be easily identified on the grid. The grid will cover all areas of the curriculum promoting skills for learning, life and work. There may be additional work given at teacher’s discretion, including literacy and numeracy. Grids last a period of three to four weeks and should be signed by a parent/carer.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

We encourage parents/carers to spend free time with their children on enjoyable sharing activities, for example cooking, painting and dressing up.

**The Role of Parents/Carers**

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

**Homework Club**

The school, in collaboration with our School and Family Development worker and Adult literacy team, will run a homework club throughout the school session on Thursday 3.15-4.00 in the ICT suite where children can complete their homework along with their parents. Currently there is no homework club provision in the area, therefore this will target those who cannot easily access resources to complete homework. This will be manned by Kirsten Bownlie, Fiona Ballie and a member of the Adult Literacy team

**Review date**

This policy will be further reviewed in June 2017

**Useful Websites**

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/>

<http://www.educationcity.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/0/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/

**Teacher’s Views**

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| What is the purpose homework? | What things do your children like doing for homework? | What is your opinion of homework? |
| * Consolidation of learning in class * Parents become aware of what’s taught in class * Support and extend learning * Sharing learning * Consolidate learning * Further extension * Informing parents | * Independent tasks * Research over longer periods * Topic related * ICT based * Making things * Maths * Creative jobs * Games (number bonds pairs game) * Sharing info (talks/baby photo etc.) | * Time consuming to organise and mark * Parents tend to complete for the children * High expectation of having homework every week * Important * Valid NOT for the sake of it |
| How could do things differently? | What stops children doing your homework? | Any other info to consider e.g. how often etc. |
| * Involve children in the planning * Less paper and pencil * Different tasks * Not do it * Homework grid * Handed out less often * Involve children in planning | * Parental support * Time * Extra-curricular * Their ability * Not motivated * Parental ability/support * Not valued by children * Home/school split * Lack of interest of parents and children | * Longer times set * How to engage children who are not interested * Homework club * Once a month? |

**Children’s Views**

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| Why do we do homework? | What things do you like doing for homework? | What do you think about homework? |
| * For education * Show what you’re learning * Raise academic skills at home * For better education | * Art & craft projects * Projects * Maths * Sentences * Projects- 3D models * Art- drawing painting * Projects for homework: science, forest, space, art, craft | * Boring * Fun * Exciting * Pretty good x2 * Waste of time that lowers your social skills sometimes * Could be improved * More challenging * More fun |
| How could we make it better? | What stops you doing your homework? | Any other info to consider |
| * Less- 2 weeks * More art * Colouring * Longer to finish to reduce stress * Every second week * Choice of tasks * More projects and less topical language | * PS4 * Nothing * Football * Clubs x3 * Electronics * Playing outside * Chores * Family visits * Procrastination * sports | * Once every 2 weeks * Nature –finding insects/leaves |

**Parent’s Views**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| What is the purpose homework? | What things do your children like doing for homework? | What is your opinion of homework? |
| * See what’s happening in school * Bridge between home and school * Progression in maths and reading * Parental involvement * Keeps what they learned in their head * Consolidation * Children realise their parents are interested in what they are doing/learning | * Arts & crafts * Looking things up on internet * Challenges – teacher picks once=e challenge which will stretch each child * Involve class and children in deciding tasks (with a buddy) | * Doesn’t match what they do in class * Not age/stage/level appropriate * Too difficult or too easy * No consistency throughout the school * No real thought behind the homework given * No relevance * Repetitive * No progression in homework throughout the years * Not valued * Teachers not engaged with homework |
| How could do things differently? | What stops children doing your homework? | Any other info to consider e.g. how often etc. |
| * Involve children in planning of homework * Tie it in with classwork * Consistent approach throughout thl | * Lack of resources * Lack of help * Parents too busy * Lack of enthusiasm; child/parents * Life gets in the way * Kids at out of school activities | * Yes to additional core lit/numeracy homework as and when required x3 * No to additional core lit/numeracy x 2 * Like grid idea * Period of 3-4 weeks per grid depending on the length of the term |