



Hamilton Primary School



HOMework POLICY

Introduction

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.

The purposes of homework at Hamilton Primary School are as follows:

- to develop an effective partnership between school and parents in pursuing school aims
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy
- to exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home
- to extend school learning eg. through additional reading
- to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school
- to give parents and carers the opportunity to share and support their child's learning

Homework helps children to:

- practise and consolidate work done in class
- prepare for future class work
- work independently
- take more responsibility for their own learning
- develop positive habits of study and self discipline
- plan and organise time
- access resources not available in school

Teacher's Role

- to set homework which is interesting and differentiated appropriately
- to clearly explain the purpose and content of the homework to pupils
- to set realistic deadlines for returning homework
- to check homework and give feedback
- to give recognition for effort and work well done

Pupil's Role

- to make time to do the homework
- to complete tasks set with as much effort and standard of presentation as class work
- to return completed homework to the teacher on time
- to write homework tasks in the homework diary (Key Stage 2 only)
- to ask parent/carer to sign the homework diary and/or reading diary

Parents' Role

- to help children to find a suitable place and time to complete tasks
- to support children with tasks but not to do it for them
- to check homework
- to sign homework diaries or reading diaries
- to use the comments section of the homework diary and/or the reading diary to communicate with the teacher
- to contact the school with any concerns

Content

For children in Early Years or KS1 homework should largely consist of regular reading with parents and carers, looking at books together. Children need to be heard reading on a regular basis, or if they are fluent readers, can read on their own for at least ten minutes a day. Other Literacy homework will include phonics related work leading to learning spellings on a daily and weekly basis. Children are also encouraged to bring in resources related to their current topic work.

Children in KS2 will be set these regular activities of learning spellings and reading as well as more formal tasks set in Literacy and Numeracy. This may consist of punctuation or grammar exercises in Literacy and reinforcement work from Numeracy lessons.

The programme of homework activities in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 is outlined in the following table:

Reception	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ hour a week	Reading - twice a week Spelling - once a week Handwriting Practice - at weekends
Year 1	1 hour a week	Daily Reading practice Phonics Sheet - often 4 days a week
Year 2	1- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week	Learning Spellings Reading daily Occasional topic work set over the weekend Later in year learning 2x, 3x, 5x, 10x tables)
Year 3	1- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week	Reading at least four times a week Learning spellings Literacy task set (20 minutes) Numeracy task set (20 minutes) Learning times tables
Year 4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week	Reading at least four times a week Learning weekly spellings Literacy task set (25 minutes) Numeracy task set (25 minutes) Learning times tables
Year 5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week	Reading at least four times a week Learning weekly spellings Literacy task set (30 minutes) Numeracy task set (30 minutes) Learning times tables Science task set (30 minutes)
Year 6	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours a week	Learning weekly spellings Reading at least four times a week Literacy task set (30 minutes) Numeracy task set (30 minutes) Learning times tables Science task set (30 minutes) Humanities research/finishing off may be set

Where a homework task has not been completed by a child, the parent or carer may sign unfinished homework if the time allocation has been used. If a child is absent, the child has the opportunity to complete the task missed, if he or she wishes to do so, though this is not compulsory.

It will be stressed to all children that they should ask for help if they cannot understand a task when they start working on it at home although staff will try to ensure that homework contains examples if possible to help parents understand the task. Children also need to make sure they understand the task set before they take it home and need to ask if they are unclear. If a child forgets to take

homework home, he or she will be asked to complete it the next evening. If a child repeatedly fails to do their homework, then contact will be made between school and home in order to discuss the matter and resolve the situation.

Homework Books and Diaries

Children in Year 3, 4, 5, 6 will have a personal organiser/homework diary and all children in KS2 will complete homework tasks in a separate 'Homework Book' for Literacy and Numeracy, unless they are finishing off an activity. To aid children, parents and staff a regular pattern of homework will be developed in each class e.g. spellings on Tuesday, tables on Thursday, etc and written homework in Literacy and Numeracy is usually to be handed in the next day.

Feedback for pupils

Homework is marked on a regular basis either by the class teacher or together as a whole class. When children do work on their own it is important they receive feedback as quickly as possible. This may be through comments after the work by the teacher or by discussion in class. Written feedback is very time consuming and is not possible all of the time and is sometimes not as effective as marking work with the class, which gives immediate feedback. A teacher may use their professional judgment about when this is to be carried out.

Homework Clubs

At Hamilton Primary School Homework Clubs are run during the week for children to attend. Attendance is by invitation only. Homework Club provides a suitable environment is provided where a child can sit and do their homework which may not be available to them at home. Parents may also make a written request to their child's class teacher to attend a Homework Club. Children who repeatedly miss homework or do not have a quiet place where they can complete their work at home, will be asked to attend a Homework Club in order for them to complete these tasks in line with the rest of the Year group. Parental permission is always sought for any child attending a Homework Club.

Revised Policy date: March 2009

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This policy became operational from 5 March 2009. The policy may be amended from time to time in accordance with school development and any changes to legislation