

Kirkby Thore School
Homework Policy

“Many pupils and their parents see work done at home as a valuable and essential part of school work. Homework is important at all stages in a child’s education and when used properly the challenge open to the pupil ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect.”

DfEE Homework Guidelines for Primary Schools April 1998.

The Purpose of Homework

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time. Homework makes the greatest contribution to learning when:-

- Children and parents are very clear about what they need to do.
- Parents are treated as partners in their children’s learning and are given support in carrying out their role.
- Tasks are carefully planned and structures to support progression in learning, as part of schools’ schemes of work. It is important that the demands of homework is manageable.
- There is a regular programme so that teachers, children and parents know what to expect.
- Children receive feedback about their work.
- There is a team approach to ensure consistent practice.
- Homework policies are regularly monitored and evaluated.

Aims

The aims of the policy are:-

- To ensure that homework is an important part of home/school agreements.
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- To involve parents or guardians in the process of learning at home.
- To improve children’s independence in learning and self discipline.
- To prepare children for transfer to secondary school.

Type of Homework

The main focus of homework should be literacy and numeracy. Science to be added as children move up through the school.

For younger children school inspired work might include:-

- Sharing books with an adult on a daily basis.
- Bringing to school items connected with units of work or projects.
- Learning spellings.

- Maths activities.

For older children school inspired work might include:-

- Daily reading to an adult or themselves.
- Learning spellings.
- Learning number facts.
- Individual research related to units of work or projects.
- English, maths or science activities.

Home inspired work might include:-

- Playing board games.
- Parents reading to children.
- Drawing activities.
- Counting games.
- Using computers based on educational activities.

The Amount of Homework

The Government recommends regular homework for all children from Year 1 upwards. Young children should start by reading or sharing a book for short periods of time. The recommended amount of homework is shown below.

- Reception – regular 10 minute activities (shared reading, phonic sounds and key work recognition).
- Year 1 and 2 – 1 hour a week (reading, spelling, other literacy work and number work).
- Year 3 and 4 – 1 and a half hours a week (literacy, numeracy and occasional assignments in other subjects).
- Years 5 and 6 – increasing amounts of homework will be given to accustom children to independent work.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Teachers will discuss from time to time how far homework is being successfully implemented. The policy will be reviewed every two years and staff, parents and governors involved. The key criteria should be the extent to which the policy is contributing to the progress pupils make at school and their attitude to learning.

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