

Simmondley Primary School

Homework Policy

September 2013

What is homework?

“Homework” is work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own, or with the support of parents or carers.

Why do we do it?

- We give homework to develop skills through regular practice (eg.reading, spelling, maths facts)

For children with Special Educational Needs this type of learning, as outlined on a child’s IEP (individual education plan) can be crucial in helping pupils to make accelerated progress and helps to close the gap between their learning and that of their peers.

- We give homework to consolidate learning in the classroom – often it gives children an opportunity to demonstrate that they can do a task independently, where they may have needed support to learn to do this in class.
- It helps to keep parents informed about what their child is learning in school and how well they understand what they have been taught.
- We give homework to extend learning in class by providing independent research tasks. We aim to encourage children to enjoy finding out for themselves.

For gifted and talented pupils, this can provide an opportunity for them to demonstrate special interests and skills.

- Homework, particularly where there are deadlines to be met, can help pupils to develop responsibility and time management skills.
- Where work produced in class is unsatisfactory and there is no good reason for this, pupils may be asked to repeat the work to a higher standard in their own time, at home

What should homework be like?

- Most tasks given for homework should be easily manageable for children, without adult support. Maximum of 30 minutes per day.
- They should be purposeful and worthwhile. Feedback of some type will be given. (This may be verbal and either individual, group or whole class.)

Additional work done by choice

- Where children choose to do additional work at home, related to what is done at school, this is praised and rewarded. Our aim is to encourage pupils to become self-motivated learners.

Setting and collection of homework

It is essential to develop good “homework habits”. Pupils will be informed of what homework will be set, what is required and dates by which the work must be completed. Where younger children are concerned, parents are requested to support them in completing work on time. In order to help with this, teachers will inform parents when work is required, in a class newsletter and other notes throughout the term. In Y5 and Y6 pupils record homework in a Homework

diary. **Parents are asked to encourage children to complete their homework and hand in pieces of work by the date requested.**

On occasion guidance on how to support at home will be provided for parents. If parents have concerns about homework at any time, they are asked to come into school to discuss this with the class teacher.

Homework in the Foundation Stage

Regular homework

- Children are given word cards and books to share with parents. As their skills increase they will have reading books to read with the support of parents.
- Children will be asked to bring in items for the “sounds” table or other items related to work in class.

Additional support

A regular class newsletter gives information about what is being covered in class, and suggests ways in which parents can support learning.

Homework in Key Stage 1 – Y1 and Y2

- Children will be given a homework book.
- Children are expected to read to parents for a short time every day. (5-10 minutes approximately)
- Children will be given words to learn on a regular basis. The focus will be on learning to read and write high frequency words and the sounds they will be learning in their phonics sessions.
- Homework set will consolidate work covered in class.
- A minute maths sheet will be sent home each week.

Homework in Lower Key Stage 2 - Y3 and Y4

- We would like children to share their reading at home several times each week. This should be meaningful text, e.g. a short story or a chapter of a story. Fluent readers may read alone and then answer questions. Sometimes, where a chapter is long, the reading could be shared by the child and the parent e.g. reading alternating pages. At this stage the meaning of what is in the text is of great importance. Ideally children will read every day but this may be by themselves sometimes and may not necessarily be a school book. Establishing the habit of reading every day, at this stage, and enjoying books, is important. If children are below age related (see child’s last report), children should read at least x3 per week.
- Children will be given spellings each week. These may be high frequency word, words related to a particular topic being studied in class, or words based on a particular phonic pattern or spelling rule.
- A maths task will be given each week to consolidate work covered in class, in addition to Maths Minutes to practise Friday for Monday
- Children will be asked to learn times tables and other number facts by heart.
- English homework will be given each week on a Monday which could be a writing or talking task and to be handed in on Wednesday.

Occasional work

Work related to topics studied in class, including Science may be given to encourage children to research independently or to follow their own line of enquiry. Where this is required (not optional) a brief note will be sent home to parents to inform them of what has been requested.

Homework in Upper Key Stage 2 – Y5 and Y6

- Daily reading is expected. Children may read to themselves predominantly but it is helpful for parents to read the same book, so that searching questions can be asked to develop comprehension skills, and especially inferential skills. (“Reading between the lines”)
- Words to learn to write will continue to be given and at this stage a particular interest in the meaning of words will be encouraged. Words to learn may be based on word derivation as well as letter patterns etc.
- A piece of maths & English work will be given each week.
- Learning by heart of times tables and their related division facts maybe required for some children who do not possess an instant recall of tables up to 10 x 10. It is a government expectation that children know these by the end of year 4..

Occasional work

Additional literacy work may include being asked to plan mentally or in written form, a piece of writing to be written later at school.

Occasionally short pieces of writing will be required.

Challenges may be given – problems, puzzles to solve, things to find out etc.

Short projects involving independent research may be given.

Children in Y5 and Y6 have a homework diary in which all work requested can be recorded. Parents are asked to check these regularly. It is important that pupils develop good “homework habits” at this stage, to support their successful transition to High School.