

North Stainley CE Primary School



Extended Learning (Homework) Policy

Primary education is a critical stage in children's development – it shapes them for life. As well as giving them the essential tools for learning, Primary education is about children experiencing the joy of discovery, solving problems, being creative in writing, art, music, developing their self-confidence as learners and maturing socially and emotionally.

(DfES. Excellence and Enjoyment: A Strategy for Primary Schools, 2003)

The purpose of homework:

- *To foster and develop a natural curiosity and love of learning.*
- *To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work in partnership.*
- *To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.*
- *To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.*
- *To extend and improve the quality of learning experiences offered to pupils.*
- *To encourage children to develop long term strategies for the future and develop the skills of independence.*

Foundation Stage

In the foundation Stage we aim to make all learning an exciting experience. In developing our children's skills, knowledge and understanding of themselves and the world it is critical that we foster and develop a strong and lasting partnership between home and school as we know that a strong partnership with parents is critical to helping children achieve as well as they possibly can.

Extended learning activities are developed gradually in the Foundation Stage and are always flexible depending on the individual.

Reading

Daily reading is very important in developing those early literacy skills. Sharing a book and talking about reading is as important as hearing your child read. Reading time should be a time of relaxation and enjoyment and the amount of time spent reading will vary according to the individual.

Often children will bring home a book that they have read before and this should be encouraged as a sign that your child is developing a love of reading and early awareness of favourite authors, characters and plots.

Writing

Writing is a natural progression from reading and if your child is developing a love of books they will naturally want to use those books as a model for their own writing. Bookmaking is a great way for young children to practise and develop their early literacy skills and should be strongly encouraged.

Other activities

As your child progresses through the Foundation Stage they will be set home challenges; these will include practical and investigative tasks as well as focused numeracy and literacy activities.

Additional guidance for supporting your child is provided in the Foundation Stage booklet for parents which is distributed at the beginning of the year.

KEY STAGE 1

At Key Stage 1 we aim to build on the valuable experiences gained in the foundation stage. We continue to foster and develop children's learning through a range of focused practical tasks and cross- curricular investigations.

RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOMEWORK

Years 1 - 2: 1 Hour approx. per week plus daily shared reading.

Outlined below are the types of activities that children with their parents will be invited to do:

Reading

As with the Foundation Stage, reading should continue to be a pleasurable experience with lots of sharing and discussion. Parents are encouraged to read to their children. Re-reading favourite books should be encouraged and as your child progresses, talk about authors, plots and characters should become a feature of reading time.

Spelling: Children at KS1 are taught to recognise patterns of words which they are then encouraged to use in their own writing. When we test children's knowledge and understanding of spellings we do so in dictation as this encourages them to use the spellings practically.

KEY STAGE 2

As children progress through the school and into Key Stage 2, homework provides an opportunity for children to further develop and extend the skills of independent study. By the time they reach Year 6 they will be into a regular weekly routine, which benefits their learning and ensures transition to secondary school (homework expectations) is as smooth as possible.

RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOMEWORK

Years 3 - 4: 1.5 hours weekly

Years 5 - 6: 2.5 hours weekly

Plus daily reading

Reading with parents is both an enjoyable and beneficial activity and is strongly encouraged throughout the Key Stage.

The following regular routine is in place for Key Stage 2:

YEAR 3:

- Daily reading 20 minutes recorded in Reading log
- Spelling and Mental Maths tested weekly on Friday
- Extended learning task (over 2 weeks)

YEAR 4:

- Daily reading 20 minutes recorded in Reading log
- Spelling and Mental Maths tested weekly on Friday
- Extended learning task (over 2 weeks)

YEAR 5:

- Daily reading 30 minutes recorded in Reading Log
- Spelling and Mental Maths tested weekly on Friday
- Extended learning task (over 2 weeks)

YEAR 6:

- Daily reading 30 minutes recorded in Reading Log
- Spelling and Mental Maths tested weekly on Friday
- Extended learning task (over 2 weeks)
- Booster class homework in Maths, English and Science- from autumn half term.

Homework tasks will be differentiated where appropriate.

Children who are on the Special Needs Register may be set separate tasks either instead of or as well as class homework. This will be done in partnership with the Special Needs teacher.

Parent's Responsibilities

Parents are encouraged to provide a peaceful and suitable environment in which pupils can do their homework. Parents are also strongly encouraged to:

- Check the homework being undertaken;
- Support and encourage their child but not do it for them;
- Expect the highest standards of presentation and quality of work based on pupil's ability;
- Ensure their child completes homework when required; and,
- Inform the teacher when there has been a problem with homework.

Signed _____

Date _____

Review date _____