



***'Learning for a fuller life...'***

## **Policy for Home Learning**

### **Introduction/Context**

Staff, parents and pupils are divided about 'homework' and there are many different interpretations of what it involves. Parent questionnaires, surveys and comments illustrate this divide: In questionnaires, while most parents were happy with the amount of homework their child receive, significant minorities felt that there was not enough homework, while others object to any homework being set at all. It is therefore unlikely that a consensus will ever be reached, but this policy is an attempt by the school to clarify our stance on the issue. The most recent review was in May April/2017.

### **Aims**

- To develop pupils' independence, self-discipline, time-management and organisational skills
- To involve parents in their child's learning
- To foster enthusiasm for learning and develop positive learning behaviours

### **Key Principles**

Home learning tasks should:

- Be purposeful, and supplement and enhance in-school learning
- Develop and build on essential skills (e.g. Regular reading, practise of times tables, spelling)
- Be accessible for all pupils
- Include some open-ended, creative tasks and an element of pupil choice.

## **Other Information**

- Home learning tasks should be communicated clearly to parents/carers. In Years 3, 4 and 5 this will be done using the 'Learning Link' format, pioneered by Y3.
- Pupils should receive appropriate feedback about completed tasks; written work should be marked appropriately.
- Homework/home learning should normally be completed in homework books (pink, A4 or small)
- Praise and reward will be used to motivate pupils to complete home learning tasks to a high standard; 'punishment' will not be used for pupils who do not complete home learning, although the matter will be discussed with parents/carers. Reading should not be used as a 'punishment'/sanction.
- The school will ensure that staff and facilities (e.g. ICT room, library) are available on a Friday lunchtime, to support pupils with tasks and provide an opportunity for them to be completed (e.g. if the pupil is going away for the weekend and will not have a chance to complete a home-learning task). Homework club should not be used as a punishment for children who don't complete homework.
- Home learning tasks may be selected from a 'menu' of options over a period of weeks, or even a half term. Children will be encouraged to select a variety of different tasks over the course of the school year.
- Some tasks may be completed over a period of weeks; others will be much shorter, self-contained tasks.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy will be monitored by the senior leadership team, through work sampling, pupil interviews and feedback from parents' evenings or other events. Governors will monitor through informal discussions with pupils and parents and through pupil and parent surveys. Reports from these activities will be considered by the Children, Curriculum and Standards Committee and inform the school's self evaluation and priorities for sustained improvement.

Original policy agreed by governors: November 2012

Revised policy agreed: 19.6.17

