



'Learning for a fuller life...'

Home Learning Protocol

As a Church of England school, we see it as our duty to give children and members of the school community the skills to maximise their engagement with the world around them, enable them to grow spiritually, emotionally and personally, and develop the character and values which will serve them well in future life and support success.

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 receives, 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 protocol will outline the school's stance on home learning.

Why give homework?

- To provide opportunity for children to practise what has been learnt in class, including the development of basic skills, such as reading and times tables
- To develop pupils' independence, self-discipline, time-management and organisational skills
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become involved 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

- Children are not expected to spend considerable amounts of time on homework; no more than 20 – 30 mins per task
- Home learning tasks should be communicated clearly to parents/carers. In years 3 – 5 this is via a weekly learning link
- *Pupils should receive appropriate feedback about completed tasks; written work should be marked appropriately.*
- Homework/home learning should normally be completed in homework books
- 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 (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 differ in type – sometimes it will be an English and/or Maths task providing an opportunity to practise what has been learnt during the week and at other times activities may be selected from a 'menu' of options over a period of weeks, or even a half term.
- In the few weeks prior to SATs tests, the Year 6 children will be given specific revision work

What to do if you have concerns

If you find that the home learning is inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, or it is becoming a source of conflict in the home, please talk with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

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