



Homework Policy

Agreed by Governors: February 2015

To be reviewed by: February 2018

A summary of the principles behind our draft Homework Policy

Homework should engage children

Homework should complement and add to the work children are doing in class

Homework is taken seriously, is marked, and children will be invited by their class teacher to discuss and comment on the work and the marking

Homework will be done in a special book, in the same way as literacy and maths

Parents and carers play a vital role in encouraging and supporting children to learn, including through homework

Self-directed learning at home is a skill that children will need as they move to secondary school

The school will follow the most recent government guidance on the amount of homework that children are set in each year group

The school is keen to support daily reading and regular maths work through homework, to help all pupils access the full curriculum. Many parents do this already (for example, through reading a book with their child, or playing multiplication games when on a bus or in the car).

Why have a policy for homework?

1.1 A homework policy enables us to:

- ensure an effective, consistent and stimulating approach to teaching and learning throughout the whole school
- ensure parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations.

1.2 Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. At George Tomlinson we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful partnership between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

1.3 We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children.

2. Aims and objectives

2.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to provide opportunities for parents / carers to assess their children's progress, and to 'keep in touch' with what their child is learning at school
- to engage pupils and consolidate, reinforce and extend learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future and to prepare older children for the demands of secondary education.

3. What is expected of the school?

The school will:

- set a regular programme for homework at the start of each term, for each year group, so that teachers, children and parents / carers know what to expect
- provide stimulating homework tasks that have a clear purpose and are linked to class work
- ensure that the homework programme is consistent across each year group

- provide clear instructions so pupils and parents or carers know what they need to do at the start of each school year, including notice of which day homework is set for pupils and which day it is to be returned to the class teacher, which will be consistent across the whole school
- provide additional tasks / projects that are optional for those children who wish to complete them
- provide parents with a list of additional resources (books, websites, and contact details for local libraries) each term
- provide ideas for holiday projects, research topics and places to visit, which will be optional for pupils and parents, but which will be marked if submitted in the homework book
- set homework that enables pupils to work to different abilities when appropriate
- set high expectations of pupils in completing homework
- provide pupils with feedback on their work
- pilot homework clubs at lunchtimes and as part of the school's After School Club
- provide parents with written responses to any comments they make in the homework book
- hold regular homework workshops for parents, and ensure that homework is discussed as part of our ongoing programme of literacy and maths workshops for parents.

4. What is expected of pupils?

Pupils will:

- conscientiously complete set homework
- to return work at set times
- work independently when required
- regard homework as a worthwhile activity
- work to their highest standard

5. What is expected of parents/carers?

Parents/carers will:

- ensure their child has access to a quiet working space
- support the school policy
- show interest and involvement, and give their child time and help where appropriate

- encourage a positive attitude towards homework
- seek advice from staff where there are problems or if your child appears reluctant or struggling to do their homework

6. Structure and amount of homework

6.1 We will ensure that homework is age appropriate in terms of both content and amount. We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school.

Year Group	Suggested time	Suggested content
Nursery /		
Reception	No recommended time, but the school expects children to do 1 hour each week	Reading with parents, word boxes and reading books in Reception
Years 1 & 2	1 hour each week	Reading, spelling, other literacy work and numeracy
Years 3 & 4	1.5 hours each week	Literacy and numeracy work, and occasional assignments in other subjects
Years 5 & 6	30 minutes each day	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy, but also ranging widely over the curriculum

Recent DfE guidance is that secondary students complete 45-90 minutes a day in Years 7 & 8, 90 minutes a day in Year 9 and one and a half to two and a half hours a day in Years 10 and 11. It is therefore important to ensure that our pupils have the independent learning skills when they leave us to enable them to manage this homework workload.

Daily reading, which is vital to secure good progress in all curriculum areas can be done as part of homework. This may be, for example, reading a school reading book or reference information in a book or on the internet for a project. On days when the homework activity is something other than reading then the recommendation is that all children should be encouraged, in addition, to read - on their own or with others - for the recommended times. Discuss what they have read with your child, ask them to tell you what happens in the story, and ask follow-up questions: Did they enjoy it, why / why not? Who were their favourite characters and why?

Our school strongly supports reading at home as the most important aspect of homework, and we recommend the following minimum reading times:

Year Group	Recommended reading time	Comments
Nursery /		
Reception	5 minutes each day	Reading with parents, word boxes and reading books in Reception
Years 1 & 2	5-10 minutes each day	Reading with parents, reading to parents
Years 3 & 4	10-15 minutes each day	Reading with parents, reading to parents, independent reading
Years 5 & 6	15-20 minutes each day	Independent reading, can include newspapers and comics

7. How homework will be recorded, monitored and evaluated

7.1 Children must see that homework is important and that teachers value it. Ensuring that all homework is properly marked, acknowledged and appreciated is one way of doing this.

- Reading diaries will provide a record of home reading for Reception and KS1 pupils.
- KS 1 and KS2 pupils will take responsibility for completing and recording homework tasks in a homework book. This book will follow the same format as literacy and numeracy class books. Lost books are expected to be replaced at a cost of £1.00. Parents are invited to write comments in these books.
- Weekly - class staff will check the reading books, respond to parents' written comments, mark the homework and comment if necessary. This will include pupil marking and peer marking. Time will be scheduled into class timetables for marking of and discussion about homework.
- Termly - sample check of homework books from each class by Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher.
- Three yearly - review of policy review - how is this policy contributing to the progress pupils make at school and their attitude to learning.