



Homework Policy

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Due for Revision: January 2020

Introduction

We believe at George Tomlinson Primary School, that homework should aid pupils in consolidation and deepening of learning, and it should develop their skills of independence and time management. Moreover, it should serve as a communication tool for parents to better understand the learning that their children have undertaken the prior week. All children should be encouraged to become reflective learners and responsible for their learning, we aim to use homework as part of this process. We also understand that learning occurs in many ways, both on the page and off the page. We want to encourage this and foster children's development in a multi-faceted way, through developing their creativity, activity, and values.

Aims

The main aim of homework is to raise achievement and development through;

- Encouraging parents to become involved with their child's learning
- Providing extra practice with the basic skills of English and Mathematics
- Extending interest and knowledge in key areas of learning
- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Allowing pupils to develop their creativity, activity and values

Choice, Challenge and Communication

Homework should be provided to pupils with an element of **choice** between two or more options for their English and Maths, thereby empowering them and giving them the feeling that they are in control. Given a choice, a child is more likely to be motivated to complete home learning.

The homework should always reflect the relevant learning that the pupils have undergone the prior week. This is an effective strategy for **communication** with parents about what is happening at school. Additionally, it should aid in consolidation or deepening of learning that the child has completed that week. A lack of ambiguity will aid in motivating children such that they know exactly what to do.

The homework provided will always give pupils the option of an extra **challenge**. This challenge may be completed in addition to the other parts of the homework, or may be completed instead, depending on the request of the class teacher. The challenge will come from the Greater Depth or Mastery Curriculum, and may be completed by any pupil who chooses to.

CAS

CAS or Creativity, Action, and Service is a second element of pupils home learning experience. We appreciate at GT that pupils may excel in other kinds of learning that is "off the page". The CAS part of a pupils' home learning will allow pupils to consider what they have done outside of school that is creative, active, or helpful to the community. Evidence of this will simply be a note or a statement by the pupil, sharing what activity they have done. This way, the child and family can begin to consider the kinds of things that can be done to develop them and prepare them for the future. Examples might include:

Creativity: painting a picture, building a lego fort or writing a song

Action: playing football, cycling in the park or going trampolining

Service: helping with the dishes, picking up litter, or visiting a friend or relative in need

Reward

Children who complete their homework exceptionally well are given "Homework Hero" Certificates and celebrated in front of their peers. A "Homework Hero" certificate also merits the giving of 5 dojo points.

Online Homework

One of the options children may have with regards to homework is to complete maths and spelling homework using Sumdog and Spellzone.

These online platforms allow pupils to learn and consolidate maths and spelling skills on the computer, whilst receiving immediate feedback from the programme. Moreover, the class teacher can easily differentiate work, identify who has completed homework, and see who has understood, with the click of a button.

This online maths learning has the added benefit of motivating pupils to want to do their homework (there is an element of the online platform where pupils can go head to head with their friends with maths problems). Additionally, it has the benefit of giving children immediate feedback, which is a proven method to improve children’s outcomes and understanding.

The role of parents and carers

- Children do better when schools and families work together.
- Fit homework into your family routine each week
- Find a quiet and peaceful place to help your child to concentrate
- Support basic skills in reading, spelling and maths with guidance from the school
- Encourage and support your child with any project homework e.g. by taking them to the local library to do some research and borrow books or provide them with pens and pencils etc.
- Children will be able to do some tasks independently. Others may need more guidance and supervision.

Times Tables

One of the things children can consolidate and learn well at home is their times tables. They need regular practice of this in order to become fluent in their times tables. A good knowledge of these will help children immeasurably in their maths as they grow older.

We don’t want to put a cap on children’s learning, and so we follow the “Rainbow Maths” method. Each child will start on the easier times tables, at Red, and move their way up through Orange, Yellow, Green, and so on. They need to have passed their test with 100% at their current colour before moving on to the next test. This means children can progress at a rate that will suit them, and can continue to practice the times tables they need.

Each week, the children will take a times tables test (each will be different), and part of their homework is to prepare for this.

Times Tables: Practice for your Rainbow Maths Test										
Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	Indigo	Violet	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
2, 5	2, 5, 10	2, 5, 10, 3, 4	2, 5, 10, 3, 4, 8	All	All / Inverse	All / Inverse	All / Inverse	Squares Fractions	Decimals Brackets	Cubes Order of operations.

Age Related Guidance

Below is a table which outlines the different activities each year group would be expected to do for their homework.

	Reading	Spelling and Phonics	English	Maths	Topic
EYFS	Daily 10 minutes	Reception: Phonics practice		Counting objects and finding 1 more and 1 less.	Holiday story boxes during the school holidays
Year 1	Daily 10 - 15 minutes	10 weekly spelling words practice. Option for online Spelling instead		Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. Recall and use doubles of all numbers to 10 and corresponding halves.	Pre half-term break project, focused on upcoming topic of learning.
Year 2	Daily 10 - 15 minutes	10 weekly spelling words practice, plus writing of 5 sentences correctly punctuated with a spelling in each. Option for online Spelling instead	Creative writing task linked with writing from the previous week e.g. - narrative - description - diary entry - report etc.	Practice for relevant Rainbow Maths level (see Rainbow Maths, above) Maths work linked with what the children are doing in class, differentiated with option for challenge Option for online Maths instead	Pre half-term break project, focused on upcoming topic of learning.
Year 3	Daily 20 minutes	10 weekly spelling words practice, plus writing of 5 sentences correctly punctuated with a spelling in each. Option for online Spelling instead	Creative writing task linked with writing from the previous week e.g. - narrative - description - diary entry - report etc.	Practice for relevant Rainbow Maths level (see Rainbow Maths, above) Maths work linked with what the children are doing in class, differentiated with option for challenge Option for online Maths instead	Pre half-term break project, focused on upcoming topic of learning.
Year 4	Daily 20 minutes	10 weekly spelling words practice, plus writing of 5 sentences correctly punctuated with a spelling in each. Option for online Spelling instead	Creative writing task linked with writing from the previous week e.g. - narrative - description - diary entry - report etc.	Practice for relevant Rainbow Maths level (see Rainbow Maths, above) Maths work linked with what the children are doing in class, differentiated with option for challenge Option for online Maths instead	Pre half-term break project, focused on upcoming topic of learning.
Year 5-6	Daily 20 minutes	10 weekly spelling words practice, plus writing of 5 sentences correctly punctuated with a spelling in each. Option for online Spelling instead	Creative writing task linked with writing from the previous week e.g. - narrative - description - diary entry - report etc.	Practice for relevant Rainbow Maths level (see Rainbow Maths, above) Maths work linked with what the children are doing in class, differentiated with option for challenge Option for online Maths instead	Pre half-term break project, focused on upcoming topic of learning.