

# Parklands Junior School

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## Homework Policy

*Inspiring Success*

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## PARKLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

At Parklands Junior School we believe that properly designed homework can play a valuable part in a child's education. The aim of this policy is to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school by outlining the purpose, types and amount of homework set. We recognise the fact that the purpose of homework may change as pupils get older and that the needs of the individual pupil should be taken into account. We give careful consideration to making homework suitable and well balanced across the school.

We believe homework works best when:

- Children and parents/carers are very clear about what they need to do.
- Parents and carers are treated as partners in their child's learning.
- Tasks are carefully planned in year groups and are structures to support by progression in learning, as part of the schools schemes of work.
- There is a regular programme so that everyone knows what is expected each week.
- Children receive prompt, clear feedback on their work.
- Homework is achievable by all pupils.

For our policy to be implemented successfully, parental support is crucial and it is our intention to involve parents and carers in the implementation and monitoring of this policy.

#### **Definition of Homework**

Homework is learning that will help with schoolwork. It can therefore be defined as work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.

#### **The Purpose of Homework**

Homework is set because:

- It helps the school develop an effective partnership between parents/carers and school.
- It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- It extends school learning.
- It is a way of using resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.
- It encourages the development of confidence, self-discipline and the organisational skill pupils need to study on their own, and prepares them for the requirements of secondary school.

### **Type of Homework**

Homework is guided by the same principles as classwork. It should be stimulating, challenging, varied and adapted to the needs and skills of the pupils. The main focus of homework should be literacy (reading, spelling, oral and written tasks) and numeracy (table facts, number games and tasks) but other subjects will be added as children move through the school. Homework will not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Tasks will also be set which will involve parents/carers in joint activities as this is the most valuable in promoting children's learning.

Regular reading to and with parents/carers is vital. Our suggestion is that all pupils should either read to their parents/carers or they should be read to everyday. Other homework tasks, differentiated where appropriate to take account of individual pupils needs, might include:

- Finding out information.
- Reading in preparation for lessons.
- Preparing oral presentations.
- More traditional written assignments.
- Occasional 'finishing off' activities.

Some homework tasks will be short, to be completed in one or two homework sessions whilst others, for older pupils, may be designed to be completed over half term.

## **Monitoring Homework**

Year group leaders will ensure that homework is carefully planned as part of medium and short term planning and that it is set in accordance with school policy. Class teachers will be responsible for setting, collecting and marking homework for their own classes. They will submit it weekly to the office in order for it to be put up on the school website. Parents are asked to sign reading diaries daily, commenting on their child's reading.

## **Amount and Timetable of Homework**

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of the tasks set and the way that they are planned. Broad guidelines, however, on the amount of time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework and the days on which it will be set, give a useful framework for both teachers and parents/carers.

Our guidance on the recommended amount of time children should spend on homework is:

### **Years 3 & 4 (daily)**

Reading	10 mins
Spellings	10 mins
Tables	10 mins

### **Years 3 & 4 (weekly)**

Maths	20 mins
Literacy	20 mins

### **Years 5 & 6 (daily)**

Reading	20 mins
Spellings	10 mins
Tables	10 mins

### **Years 5 & 6 (weekly)**

Maths	30 mins
Literacy	30 mins

Parents will be informed of any changes to these times.

## **The Role of Parents/Carers**

The support of parents and carers is vital for this policy to be successfully implemented. As a child moves through the school the type of homework they receive is likely to change and therefore the role of the parents/carers will also alter slightly. In general, it is our hope that parents will:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework alone or with the help of an adult.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework, support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Ensure homework is completed on time, sign the reading record daily and communicate any concerns to the class teacher in their child's planner.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Become actively involved in joint homework activities.

## **Home School Agreements**

As part of the Parklands Home School Agreement we ask parents to acknowledge their support for Parklands Homework Policy. This agreement will be signed by parents upon a child's entry to the school.

## **Pupils with Additional Needs**

Whilst it is important that children with additional needs do as much homework as children in class, there will be occasions when it is more appropriate for them to do work which addresses their individual needs. Wherever possible these should be linked to their Pupil Passports and should give plenty of opportunity for pupils to succeed.

*Reviewed by: Teresa Carter*      15/06/16

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