

NEWPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy has been reviewed in response to requests from parents/carers (November 2012 parental questionnaire) and learners (November 2012 KS2 pupil questionnaire) to improve the range of homework that is provided across all year groups at Newport Primary School.

Within the review we have referred to the DFE guidance on Homework.

WHY IS HOMEWORK IMPORTANT?

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
- It can allow pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are available beyond the classroom.
- It can involve parents/carers and other family members in their children's work.
- It can give opportunities for long term research and other work.
- It can form an important part of future work.
- This gives pupils valuable experience of working to dead lines and helps prepare them for the future.

WHAT IS HOMEWORK?

Homework is NOT just completion of worksheets and spellings. Homework should give different opportunities for:

- Reading
- Finding out information
- Preparing ideas and questions
- Practising literacy and mathematics skills

HOW MUCH HOMEWORK SHOULD BE PROVIDED?

The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different abilities and topics/themes of study.

READING :

- It is important that children read for a short amount of time every day. This should be a comfortable experience where children's efforts are positively acknowledged. A simple comment should be recorded by the parent/carer on the blue reading record card after every reading session.
- On completion of each reading card, pupils will be rewarded with a certificate and their names placed into a prize draw each half term. It is important that reading is encouraged and rewarded.
- Home/school reading books should be returned regularly. Reminder slips will be given to pupils who continue to forget. If pupils continue to return books, then a letter will be sent to parents. In this case, no more school books will be allowed to go home with that child.
- Pupils may bring home 'action' words, phonic spellings or topic words to read, learn and spell. These may link to spelling activities within the classroom.
- Younger pupils in nursery may bring home 'activity' bags and reception pupils will have sounds and 'action' words to learn.

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SPELLINGS :

- Weekly spellings will be given each pupil in Y1 - Y6 pupils every Friday. These spellings will be matched to the learning focus within class.
- Pupils will be expected to know and use these spellings in context the following week. Rewards will be given for effort and application. There will also be spelling quizzes and tests every Friday.
- Reception pupils will bring 'sound books' and 'action' words home to learn each week.

MATHEMATICS (in addition to reading and spelling)

- Pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 will occasionally be required to complete some basic mathematics work every 2 weeks, such as number bonds, finding shapes around the house, multiplication facts.
- Pupils in Year 3 and 4 will be required to complete 1 short piece of mathematics homework per week. This will be linked to knowing number facts (multiplication, division, number bonds) or linked to topics of study such as measure, shape, data handling and possibly number bonds or tables.
- Pupils in Year 5 & Year 6 will be required to complete 1 or 2 pieces of additional homework each week depending upon the task. Some research and formal recording may be expected for some tasks.
- Revision booklets will be provided for Y6 pupils to complete which they will be expected to work from regularly from the start of Autumn Term through to the end of the following Spring Term.

Homework may be given during holiday periods.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL HELP PUPILS ORGANISE THEIR HOMEWORK?

- a) Each pupil in Reception is provided with a free reading wallet.
- b) Y1 & Y2 is given a plastic wallet to contain homework (if reading wallet is lost)
- c) KS2 pupils will be provided with a homework sport bag when they enter Y3.
- d) We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and that all pupils know what is expected.

RETURNING HOMEWORK?

Homework will be provided every Friday and returned the following Thursday for marking and feedback, (except spellings in KS1) All homework returns will be recorded by each teacher to ensure return. Spelling results from the previous week in each KS1 class will be indicated on the next set of spellings/action words homework.

Pupils who bring back homework earlier (where appropriate) will be rewarded with House Points, Superstars, prizes and certificates.

HOW CAN PARENTS/CARERS HELP ?

- a) Check that homework is collected and completed on time.
- b) Complete the comments section on the reading card.
- c) Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- d) Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home and that your child has the right equipment, ie a pencil.
- e) Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- f) Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help.

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FAILURE TO HAND IN HOMEWORK

We expect completed homework to be given in on time each week. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to dead lines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules. If homework is not given in appropriate action is taken:

- the class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in the work;
- Homework will be given again for completion.
- the class teacher will complete a homework reminder slip which will be given to you.
- A homework club will run each night from Tuesday to Thursday within After School Club time.
- The HT will contact parent/carers for persistent none completion of homework.
- records will always be kept for each pupil.

HOW CAN SCHOOL SUPPORT PARENTS/CARERS?

Regular evening workshops will be arranged for parents/carers to attend. The workshops will offer opportunities for demonstrating and sharing strategies that are taught in school so that these strategies can be understood and reinforced at home.

Examples of how to complete the homework correctly (i.e. for mathematics calculations) may be included in some of the tasks given.

Termly pupil progress reports will include a simple comment on homework completion.

The completed form may be kept with the staff record of that pupil to provide evidence for a specific or general problem which may be referred to the Headteacher, parent or guardian. Homework missed due to absence on the set date does not normally have to be completed.

Compiled by: J Sutton	Revision Number: 3
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