

Gilbert Scott Primary School

Inspiring all, to achieve in learning for life

Policy

for

Homework

Spring 2015

Review date: Spring 2017



'Homework' is any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.

The aim of the homework policy is to:

- Ensure homework is clearly linked to the National Curriculum, especially with reading
- Ensure it is manageable for pupils, teachers and parent / carers
- Ensure parents / carers receive a homework schedule to assist with supporting their child more effectively
- Promote learning at home as an essential part of good education.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers and children to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences
- Extend and support classroom learning
- Help children to develop learning skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility

As a result:

- There is an established contact with all parents / carers
- Both parents – where this is the situation - become more involved in their child's education
- Parents/carers provide a significant amount of quality time with their child
- Parents/carers become more knowledgeable about the school curriculum
- Parents/carers develop a clearer appreciation of their child's true strengths and weaknesses
- Inequality of educational opportunity is reduced
- Esteem between parents, pupils and teachers is enhanced
- Family learning activities are promoted
- The effectiveness of home / school partnerships are enhanced
- Standards are raised

Aims of Homework

- To consolidate and extend learning
- To practise skills
- To rehearse
- To prepare
- To have positive parent/carer/child time.

English Homework

English homework is set to support both reading and writing skills. Every child is expected to read every night with a written entry into their Reading Record and signed by an adult. Spellings are given out regularly, related to the 2014 year expectations or specific topics.

Maths Homework

Maths homework is set to develop fluency in mental maths, reinforce the learning of mathematical skills and problem solve. Parents/carers can support their child to develop fast recall of number bonds to 10 and 20, then 100, and then tables up to 12 x. It is valuable to develop skills in real life contexts so children make links with their learning e.g. cooking to develop maths skills relating to weight, telling the time, using time tables for trains and buses.

Creative Homework

The aim of setting Creative homework is to make homework fun and encourage creativity within a given topic. It is a time to work with parents/carers or independently. It can be achieved in a variety of ways including making models, cooking, drawing, doing research, posters and interviews. Children can also be creative in the way the work is presented e.g. designing a power point presentation. All creative homework is displayed in a special area either inside or outside the classroom.

Improving key life skills

Social skills, evaluation skills, problem solving, managing feelings and working collaboratively are key life skills. Developing key life skills improves children's motivation and approach to life and learning. Working together as a team/sharing/communicating feeling develops a confident child who has no fear of getting things wrong or having a go!

Activities/games/helping around the house can develop maths and English skills but also vital life skills and are fun too. E.g. Board games – Playing Scrabble is a great way of learning to spell but also teaches turn taking, solving problems and losing.

Homework may be set to support a specific and identified need in comprehensions, tables or number bonds, sentence work, handwriting or grammar. These will be specific and time limited.

Use of computers

All children have access onto Fronter. Each year group has its own room where teachers have put information about the current learning with activities to support this. Through Fronter other programs can be accessed. These include Mathletics, Manga High and Language Nut. Children can also use Fronter to upload homework.

Reading eggs, Lexia and Skoolbo are other programs children have access to.

Marking:

- Reading records should always be updated, by the child or the parent, dependant on the age of the child. Teachers will initial the record when they check it. Records are checked daily.
- A maths activity sheet can be marked or commented on by the parent. The teacher will check the work and initial it.
- Creative homework will be marked and shared and rewarded at school.

Homework completed will always be acknowledged and praised at school. This is often done verbally, but stickers will also be given.

Reviewed by staff: Autumn 2014
Approved by Governors: Spring 2015
Review Date: Spring 2017

Activity and time expectations are:

Year	Reading	Spelling	Maths	Other	Days out/returned
Nursery	Story sharing			All about me books – families contribute photographs of the family ad what they do in the holidays/fav. food etc	
Reception	Books are changed twice a week 5 minutes every night (unit – daily)	Phonics work and learning HF/tricky words. Link to handwriting. (8, 6 and 4 words) (unit –phonics daily)	Open ended maths eg shape walk, where can you see number 5? How many knives, forks and spoons do you need when you are setting the table?	Handwriting patterns and fine motor skills eg bead threading (unit – handwriting practice)	Tuesday and Friday.
1	5 minutes every night (unit – daily)	Phonics work and learning HF/tricky words. Link to handwriting (10, 6, 5 words) (unit – daily)	Every 3 weeks (unit –1 x per week)	Creative every 3 weeks Literacy every 3 weeks (unit – handwriting practice)	Spellings out Thursday and tested Thurs Homework out Fri back Tues
2	10 minutes every night (unit – daily)	12, 8 and 5 words weekly (unit – phonics daily)	Every 3 weeks	Creative every 3 weeks Literacy every 3 weeks (unit – handwriting practice)	Spellings out Thur/Fri tested Thurs Homework out Thurs/Fri back Tues

3	15 minutes	6 – 10 words weekly	Maths worksheets once a week. Times tables	Creative Homework every 3 weeks	Set Friday, return Thursday
4	15 mins every day	Weekly 2 groups 14 – 16 words	Maths worksheets – differentiated once a week. Times tables	Creative Homework 1 – 2 times per half term.	Maths set Thursday return Thursday Creative 10-12 days to hand in Spellings give out Fri – tested following Thursday
5	20 minutes every night – signed journal expected daily	Differentiated groups weekly (8, 10, 12 words)	Differentiated groups weekly 10 mins times tables every night	Creative Spelling activities to support learning	Maths/Spellings given out Friday, returned Friday Creative every 2 weeks
6	20 minutes every night – signed journal expected daily	Individual spellings (12 words)	Maths sheets once a week Times tables – individual	Comprehension Creative	Spellings set Thursday, test Thursday Tables test Friday Maths set Thursday, return Tues Comp set Thursday in Tues

