

Blowers Green Primary School

Homework Policy

1. Introduction

'A good well managed homework programme helps children to develop skills and attitudes they will need to develop successful, lifelong learning. Homework also develops the independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education'

2. At Blowers Green Primary School we believe that homework can be a part of a child's education and that our children can benefit from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners and we believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning. It can also be a way of establishing a meaningful dialogue between home and school.

3. Aims and Objectives

At Blowers Green we feel that there are three aims for our homework:

- i. To consolidate and reinforce children's skills and understanding, particularly in numeracy and Literacy.
- ii. To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline to study on their own and help children develop good work habits for the future.
- iii. To provide opportunity for parents to become involved in their children's education.

4. The Role of Parents

- 4.1 Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite parents to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library

regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Parents are encouraged to check their child's homework diary regularly for comments from teachers and to communicate with their child's teachers.

- 4.2 If parents/guardians have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher via the homework/reading diary or through an informal message in the morning.

5. The Role of the Child

- 5.1 We believe that all children should take responsibility for remembering to take their homework, spellings and reading books home in order to complete the work set and remember to bring them back in to school on the due date.

6. The Role of Teacher

- 6.1 Each teacher will;
- Set meaningful homework
 - Provide feedback to the child and/or parent where necessary verbally or through the child's homework diary.
 - Mark and hand back homework to the children for them to file in school. Homework will not be sent back home and parents are assured that if there is an issue with the homework they will be contacted individually by the class teacher (see above point).

7. Types of Homework

We set a variety of homework activities. We encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We also ask children to learn spellings/'Super Sentences' or mathematical tables as part of their homework. Not all homework will necessarily be written and it may involve playing number or word games. Sometimes we ask children to find information about a topic at home, prior to studying it in school which may involve a trip to the local library. As part of our creative curriculum, we also set 'Take Home Tasks' once per term for all the family to engage with.

Reception

- Daily phonics/sound of the day
- Key words to learn related to the phonics programme.
- Reading books to share with parents
- Small activities 'as and when' in order to develop a specific concept at home - for example 'Can you play Eye-Spy with your child with words beginning with the 'a' sound.
- Half termly 'Take Home Tasks' for all the family to enjoy!

Year 1

- Spellings related to the sounds being taught in school that week
- Reading books to share with parents, accompanied by a reading record for parents to sign and make any comments they feel necessary
- A maths activity relating to learning in class that week.

Year 2

- 'Super Sentences' which reinforce children's spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Reading books to share with parents, accompanied by a reading record for parents to sign and make any comments they feel necessary
- Topic related 'Extended Take Home' tasks. (These might be related to DT, Art, History, Geography, RE, research based tasks or talking tasks).
- Numeracy activity linked to mental maths and times tables.

Years 3-6

- **Literacy**; the children will be given 5 'Super Sentences' to learn in order to reinforce spelling, punctuation and grammar. The sentences will run over a two week period with the children undertaking an accuracy test each week.
- Daily reading; the children should read daily and record this in their homework/reading diary.
- Mental maths; 20 mental maths questions need to be completed in preparation for a weekly mental maths test.
- Sometimes children will have a piece of work from another area of the curriculum
- Occasionally Years 3, 4 and 5 have personal topics/project work linked to topics covered in school

- Children are also required to learn two poems to orally recite each half term as part of their 'Poetry Recitation Badge'.

7.1 Following the completion of homework, the teacher will provide feedback in class and make an assessment of the work which will inform the planning of future lessons. Homework is stored in school and if there is an issue or misconception the teacher will feed back to individual pupils and parents.

7.2

In all year groups, parents will be contacted by the class teacher if homework is not handed in regularly. If homework is not completed, children have the opportunity to attend a daily homework club or a weekly after school homework club.

8. Amount of Homework

8.1 We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. This is in line with the most current DFE guidelines that were issued in 1988.

Reception and Years 1 and 2	We expect children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, which includes reading with a parent. This equates to reading for approximately 10 minutes per day.
Years 3 and 4	We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15-20 minutes per night on homework this includes reading, learning time tables, spelling and specific homework tasks.
Years 5 and 6	We expect children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night. Once again, this includes reading, learning time tables, spelling and specific homework tasks.

9. Optional Homework

In addition to set homework as outlined above, we encourage pupils to engage in a range of other learning activities. We call these 'Challenges'. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of different challenges that cover non-

core subjects. Challenges are designed to be age appropriate and encourage independence, learning and research. Following completion of a challenge, pupils are assessed and, if successful, are awarded a subject badge.

For the academic year 2014/15, the children will be encouraged to complete a reading, geography and history challenge.

We hope to develop a range of other subject challenges throughout the academic year 2014/15 such as art, Science, P.E. and Design Technology.

10. Pupils with Special Educational Needs

- 10.1 We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. Where children have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), we refer to these when setting homework. Parents are encouraged to work on targets from their child's IEP at home in addition to their child's homework.

11. Monitoring and Review

- 11.1 The homework policy will be formally reviewed every two years. However, parents complete a questionnaire every year and the school will pay careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time regarding homework.

12. Equal Opportunities

- 12.1 This policy adheres to all the principles, aims and objectives set out in the school's Equal Opportunities and Race Relations policy and the Inclusion policy.

Reviewed June 2014