



Homework Policy

Written by the Staff of Durand

April 2017

Agreed July 2017

Durand Primary School

Homework Policy

Introduction

We define homework as an activity that pupils undertake outside of curriculum time, either on their own or with the support of family members which reinforces, extends or enriches their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. At Durand Primary School we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

The purpose of homework is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Homework enables children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to consolidate, reinforce and extend the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to provide opportunities for parents and children to work together;
- to allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Role of the School

The school will aim to:

- provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework;
- ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed;
- provide support for parents with information about homework.

A school produced guide for parents on 'Homework at Durand Primary School' is made available to all parents. (Appendix 1).

Role of the Teacher

Teachers will plan and set homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child and will ensure that all children understand the homework that they have been given. We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy and feedback is given. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

Teachers are available to talk to parents and pupils about homework and will inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

The Role of Parents

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 them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment and the correct resources that will allow their child 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 can ensure that their child completes homework to a high standard and that they hand it in on time.

If parents have any questions about homework contact the child's class teacher.

The Role of the Child

Children are responsible for completing homework tasks that are set, with increasing independence as they move through the school, and to take responsibility for this. Children need to:

- ensure they have everything they need to complete their homework;
- make sure they understand the task(s) that have been set;
- put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work;
- hand the homework in on time;
- take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in Foundation Phase

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Foundation Phase. It is the ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home. In the Foundation Phase we give children books to take home and read with their parents. We give guidance to parents on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in school. The type of homework we set in each of the Foundation classes is as follows:

Nursery – No formal homework. However, we would suggest that parents read their children stories, teach them Nursery Rhymes, help them to recognise numbers 1-5 (as a minimum), count everyday objects, learn the days of the week, encourage drawing and scribbling on paper, get them to recognise their name and generally talk to them.

Reception – One reading book is sent home weekly along with the sounds that have been learnt in school that week. Letter formation and handwriting sheets are sent home weekly. Red word flashcards are sent home when necessary. Number reinforcement homework if / when needed.

Year 1 – One reading book per week and red words as required. One piece of either Maths or Literacy homework per week. From the beginning of the Spring term spellings are sent home weekly. Number and / or sounds reinforcement sheets sent home if / when needed.

Year 2 - One reading book is sent home weekly. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problem solving sheets are sent home weekly to reinforce number skills taught in school. Number and / or sounds reinforcement sheets sent home if / when needed.

Homework in Key Stage 2

At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities that they received when in Foundation Phase, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set literacy and/or numeracy homework each week, and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home. We also ask Key Stage 2 children to learn and practice mathematical tables as part of their homework. The type of homework we set in each of the Foundation classes is as follows:

Year 3 – Reading books are sent home weekly appropriate to the pupil's level. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problems from 'Mental Arithmetic Introductory Book' are sent home weekly to reinforce Numeracy Skills. Topic research and projects are sent home periodically to enhance and further develop the class skills being taught, pupils are encouraged to use Hwb to complete many of these.

Year 4 – Reading books are sent home weekly appropriate to the pupil's level. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problems from 'Mental Arithmetic Book 1' are sent home weekly to reinforce Numeracy Skills. A Literacy Grammar activity is sent home each week. Topic research and projects are sent home periodically to enhance and further develop the class skills being taught, pupils are encouraged to use Hwb to complete many of these.

Year 5 – Reading books are sent home weekly appropriate to the pupil's level. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problems from 'Mental Arithmetic Book 2' are sent home weekly to reinforce Numeracy Skills. A Literacy Reading Comprehension activity is sent home each week. Topic research and projects are sent home periodically to enhance and further develop the class skills being taught, pupils are encouraged to use Hwb to complete many of these.

Year 6 – Reading books are sent home weekly, unless pupil is free reading where the pupil can select a book of their choice from school / home / library etc. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problems from 'Mental Arithmetic Book 3' are sent home weekly to reinforce Numeracy Skills. Topic research and projects are sent home periodically to enhance and further develop the class skills being taught, pupils are encouraged to use Hwb to complete many of these.

Inclusion and homework

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, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

Headteacher:

Chair of Governors:

Date:

DURAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



HOMEWORK

A guide to supporting your child

The purpose of this booklet is to help you support your child's learning in partnership with us at Durand Primary School.

What is Homework?

At Durand Primary School we view homework as being a supported or independent task which is undertaken outside of curriculum time and which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

Why is it set?

The purpose of homework at Durand Primary School is

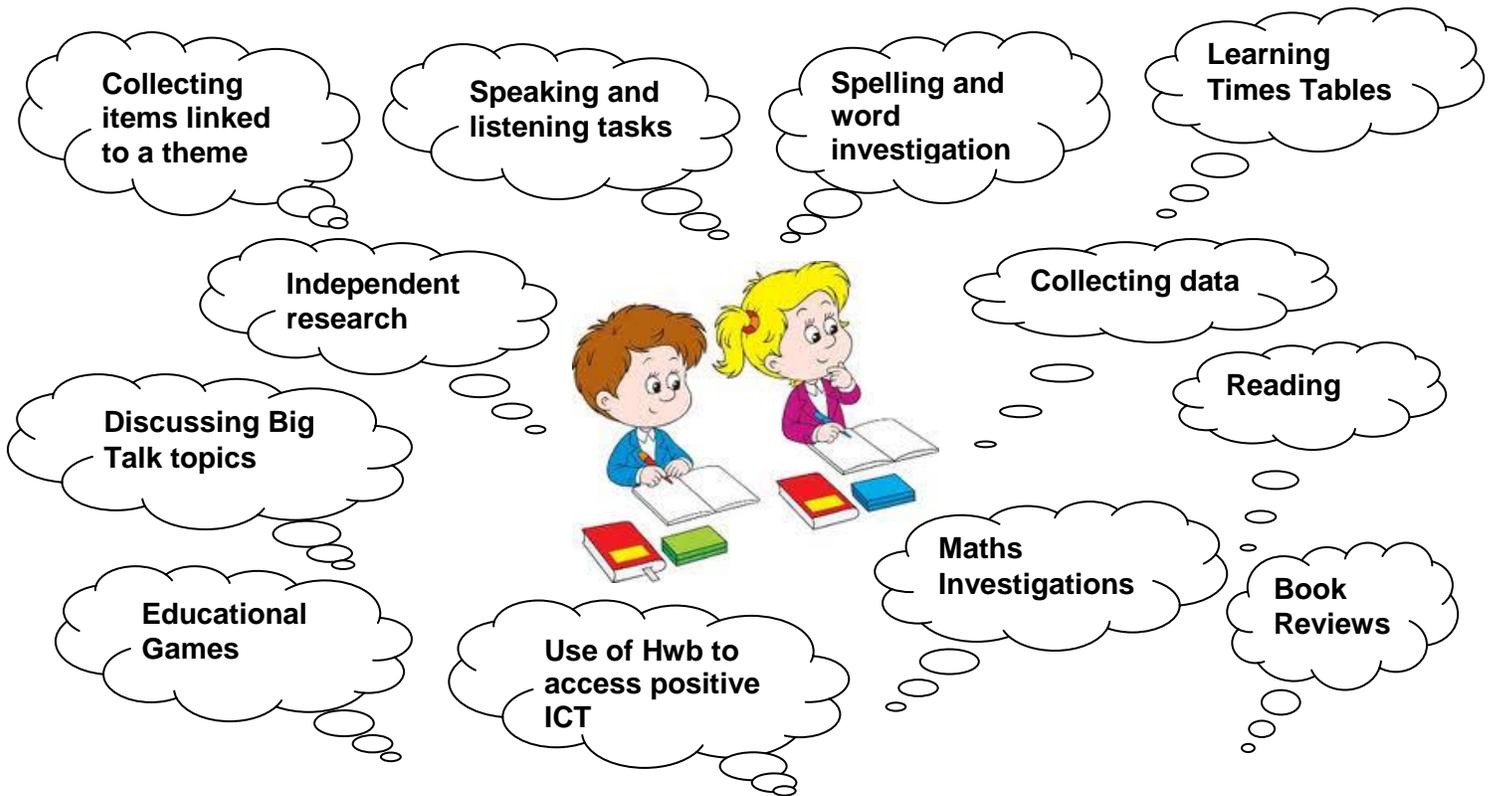
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend the learning done in school;
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together;
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school;
- To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

How you can help:

- Provide a quiet area where your child can work. It is helpful to switch off the TV to aid concentration.
- Offer your help and support for younger children to complete tasks.
- Expect older children to work independently, but make it clear that you are there if needed.
- Encourage your child to complete homework on the day set, as the task will have just been explained. If they leave it until the day before it is due in they may find that they need resources that they do not have to hand. The setting of homework several days in advance enables children to develop skills in organising their time. Younger children will need support in moving towards this.
- Take an interest in the homework and encourage your child to take a pride in the presentation of written tasks. Work should be handwritten by your child in pencil or a suitable handwriting pen, unless directed otherwise by your child's class teacher.
- Ensure that your child hands in their homework on time.

What does it look like?

Homework involves a range of activities including the following:



What should my child be doing?

At Durand Primary school we have the following expectations.....

Nursery	No formal homework. However, we would suggest that parents read their children stories, teach them Nursery Rhymes, help them to recognise numbers 1-5 (as a minimum), count everyday objects, learn the days of the week, encourage drawing and scribbling on paper, get them to recognise their name and generally talk to them.
Reception	One reading book is sent home weekly along with the sounds that have been learnt in school that week. Letter formation and handwriting sheets are sent home weekly. Red word flashcards are sent home when necessary. Number reinforcement homework if / when needed.
Year 1	One reading book per week and red words as required. One piece of either Maths or Literacy homework per week. From the beginning of the Spring term spellings are sent home weekly. Number and / or sounds reinforcement sheets sent home if / when needed.
Year 2	One reading book is sent home weekly. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problem solving sheets are sent home weekly to reinforce number skills taught in school. Number and / or sounds reinforcement sheets sent home if / when needed.

Year 3	Reading books are sent home weekly appropriate to the pupil's level. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problems from 'Mental Arithmetic Introductory Book' are sent home weekly to reinforce Numeracy Skills. Topic research and projects are sent home periodically to enhance and further develop the class skills being taught, pupils are encouraged to use Hwb to complete many of these.
Year 4	Reading books are sent home weekly appropriate to the pupil's level. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problems from 'Mental Arithmetic Book 1' are sent home weekly to reinforce Numeracy Skills. A Literacy Grammar activity is sent home each week. Topic research and projects are sent home periodically to enhance and further develop the class skills being taught, pupils are encouraged to use Hwb to complete many of these.
Year 5	Reading books are sent home weekly appropriate to the pupil's level. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problems from 'Mental Arithmetic Book 2' are sent home weekly to reinforce Numeracy Skills. A Literacy Reading Comprehension activity is sent home each week. Topic research and projects are sent home periodically to enhance and further develop the class skills being taught, pupils are encouraged to use Hwb to complete many of these.
Year 6	Reading books are sent home weekly, unless pupil is free reading where the pupil can select a book of their choice from school / home / library etc. Spellings are sent home weekly. Maths problems from 'Mental Arithmetic Book 3' are sent home weekly to reinforce Numeracy Skills. Topic research and projects are sent home periodically to enhance and further develop the class skills being taught, pupils are encouraged to use Hwb to complete many of these.

What do I do if I have a query?

If your child has a problem completing their homework or you have any questions, please call in and see your child's class teacher. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem. Your support in the process is vital for your child's success in developing self-study skills as they move through our school and beyond.

We hope that this booklet has been helpful. Further information about our approach to homework can be found in our Homework Policy which is available on our school website or from the school office.

