

# Homework Policy

## Kingsway Primary School



<b>Governor Committee Responsible:</b>	Curriculum and outcomes committee	<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Lisa Hillman
<b>Status</b>	Non-statutory	<b>Review Cycle</b>	Two yearly
<b>Last Review</b>	October 2021	<b>Next Review Date</b>	October 2023

### Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide clear guidelines on our approach to homework
- Establish a consistent and coherent approach to homework to ensure all pupils in our school have similar chances and experiences appropriate to their age and stage
- Clearly set out how and when home work should be completed

### Our vision

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school time, either on their own or with the support of family members. We recognise that the support pupils receive at home will be diverse and different depending on family circumstances and we aim to ensure that all our pupils achieve well. We believe that homework should be manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a burden or source of conflict then it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We pride ourselves on the close communication between home and school and encourage all parents to discuss individual circumstances with teachers.

At Kingsway, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and view homework as a way of developing the partnership between home and school.

In closing the disadvantage gap, we recognize that pupils eligible for free school meals typically receive additional benefits from homework. However, surveys in England suggest that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to have a quiet working space, are less likely to have access to a device suitable for learning or a stable internet connection and may receive less parental support to complete homework and develop effective learning habits.

### The purpose of home work

Why give homework?

- It informs parents about work taking place in class
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- It fosters relationships between children and parents through one to one adult time
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the other children in the class

- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, calculating, handwriting and spelling
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school

### **Homework routines and expectations in EYFS**

In EYFS, the focus is on phonics, speaking and listening and early number.

When children first start in reception, they will receive a phonics book daily with the letter-sound correspondences they are currently working on along with some words to blend to read. Parents are asked to practice these with their children daily along with their tricky word keyrings. Once children are onto a reading book, we ask that children read at home frequently alongside their phonics books.

Every two-three weeks, parents are sent an overview on Class Dojo of the current areas of learning in reception. On this overview, there are suggestions for speaking and listening opportunities which support children's current areas of learning and suggestions for counting and maths activities. Parents are encouraged to share their children's home learning on Tapestry.

### **Homework routines and expectations KS1**

At Kingsway Primary School, we recommend that in KS1 our pupils complete at least an hour of homework a week, this is primarily reading.

We expect pupils to read daily to an adult at home and would prefer that this reading is done in short bursts to maintain and engage pupils' enthusiasm.

Reading is the first priority of education; we would prefer parents read daily with their child, rather than feel the pressure of completing other tasks. It is expected that children will read daily at home and parents will record in the reading record to create a two-way communication between home and school.

All classes are set a weekly homework on a Wednesday and this is due to be returned on the following Monday. The homework will be set via class dojo. Or alternatively, at parents' request, a paper copy of the home work can be sent home. Teachers will mark the home work using class dojo and will recognize the work with a 'like'. The homework will be explained and discussed in class before coming home. The homework will alternate between maths, English or a topic focused task.

Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective and we ensure that the purpose of homework is clear to all pupils e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or to develop fluency in a particular area.

### **Homework routines and expectations KS2**

At Kingsway Primary School, we recommend that in KS2 our pupils complete half an hour of homework each day.

We expect pupils to read daily to an adult at home, up to and including Year Six. This is vital to discuss vocabulary and word meanings. Reading is the first priority of education and we would prefer parents to read daily with their child, rather than feel the pressure of completing other tasks. It is expected that children will read daily at home, for 15 minutes each day and parents will record in the reading record to create a two-way communication between home and school.

All classes are set a weekly homework on a Wednesday and this is due to be returned on the following Monday. The homework will consist of one maths activity and one English or a topic focused task per week.

The homework will be set via class dojo. Or alternatively, at parents' request, a paper copy of the home work can be sent home. Teachers will mark the home work using class dojo and will recognize the work with a 'like'.

The homework should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home. Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective and we ensure that the purpose of homework is clear to all pupils e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or to develop fluency in a particular area.

### **Inclusion and SEND**

The principles of this homework policy apply to all pupils, including those with special educational needs or disabilities.

We will use meaningful ways of setting homework which meet the needs of pupils, for instance homework tasks may be altered depending on the needs of the individual child.

For pupils working below the national expected level of attainment, our homework will consider progress relative to pupil starting points, and take this into account alongside the nature of pupils' learning difficulties. SEND pupils may be given additional scaffolding or modelling support to ensure they can access the directed task.

Homework will not be used as a punishment or penalty for poor performance.

### **Closing the disadvantage gap**

In closing the disadvantage gap, we recognize that pupils eligible for free school meals typically receive additional benefits from homework. However, surveys in England suggest that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to have a quiet working space, are less likely to have access to a device suitable for learning or a stable internet connection and may receive less parental support to complete homework and develop effective learning habits.

To ensure that the gap in attainment is not increased for disadvantaged pupils, we will work closely with families who need additional support and will also offer homework club to overcome these barriers by offering pupils the resources and support needed to undertake homework.

### **Marking children's work**

- It is expected that children's work will be recognised and acknowledged using class dojo. We recognise that feedback on homework leads to higher impacts on learning but it will not be marked extensively by class teachers.
- Reading records will be checked, and signed, at least weekly by the class teacher and a two-way communication between home and school created to foster pupils' love of reading.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

#### **Governors**

Governors are responsible for:

- Being familiar with statutory assessment systems as well as how the school's own system of non-statutory assessment captures the attainment and progress of all pupils: up until 2012 the Department for Education recommended an hour of homework a week for primary school Key Stage 1 children and half an hour a day

for primary school Key Stage 2 children. This is not statutory, but many schools use this as a recommended guideline.

### **Headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the policy is adhered to
- Prioritising home and school links to foster parental engagement with learning
- Reporting to governors on all key aspects of pupil progress and attainment, including current standards and trends over previous years

### **Teachers**

- Teachers are responsible for following the homework procedures outlined in this policy. They have a duty of obligation to set and mark homework with the best interests of the children and their families recognised.

### **Monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed on a two-year cycle by the senior leadership team. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board via the curriculum and outcomes committee.

All teaching staff are expected to read and follow this policy. The senior leadership team are responsible for ensuring that the policy is followed.

Senior leaders will monitor the effectiveness of homework practices across the school, through:

Monitoring which includes:

- Looking at the variety of home work set on class dojo and assessing the effectiveness of feedback
- Assessing the amount of staff time for planning and feedback
- Considering how to maximize the effectiveness of homework through teacher professional development to promote the use of well-designed tasks to complement learning in the classroom and high-quality feedback to improve pupil learning
- Assessing pupil engagement and attainment
- Inviting parents to comment on the effectiveness / manageability of our provision

### **Links with other policies**

This homework policy is linked to:

- Reading Policy
- SEND policy
- Assessment policy

