

ASTON HALL JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. The government made it clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in Schools', where homework was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. 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 the children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Aim and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are;

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.



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Types of homework

We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask all parents in school to complete the home-school reading record sent home with each child. We also ask children in Foundation Stage to learn letter sounds and ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings, number bonds or tables as part of their homework. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school in order to engage children in learning from the onset and also help the children to shape their learning within a topic based on their lines of development.

In Key Stage 2 we continue we continue this, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set literacy and numeracy homework routinely each week and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practise at home.

Amount of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We encourage the parents of F2 children to support their child by reading with them at home as well as completing phonic activities. Advice on supporting reading is given to parents on starting school. We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15-20 minutes per night on homework and children in years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night.

Pupils with special educational needs

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.

The role of the 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 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 be discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher.



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Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. The governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

Review Date - May 2019



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