

Hollin Primary School



Homework Policy

July 2024

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Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy is intended as a framework for staff, parents and governors of the school. In outlining a policy for the setting of homework, the aim is to work towards uniformity and progression from Reception to Year 6.

Here at Hollin Primary School, we believe that there is an advantage in children spending regular periods of time, initially quite short, on different learning activities devised by the school as part of a homework programme which supports the work done in class. Homework is an opportunity to practise and reinforce skills learned in school, share learning with parents, develop reading skills, undertake research and have time to extend and deepen knowledge and understanding across all areas of the curriculum

Homework activities need not, and should not, get in the way of other activities that children may do after school – such as sport, music and clubs of all kinds. We therefore define homework as any activities or work, which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Aims and Objectives

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.
- Ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil.
- Extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision.
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school and later life.
- Provide purposeful tasks which are related to their current or prior teaching and learning, experiences.
- Ensure all pupils, regardless of background, are able to access and achieve success through our homework programme.

Our Homework Programme

The purposes of homework changes as children get older. In the Reception class and Key Stage 1, short activities of different kinds – simple games, phonics and number facts, and, of course, reading together – provide an important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

As children grow older, homework provides an opportunity to develop the skills of independent learning, and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own. Homework does not always mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, which is most valuable in promoting and encouraging children's learning.

Year	Time	Work / Activities	Set
Nursery & Reception	approx. 1 hr. per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reading○ Phonic practice○ Number practice○ Tricky words○ Topic	Tapestry Paper copy
Year 1 & 2	approx. 1 hr. per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reading○ Spellings○ Maths○ English	Purple Mash Homework book TTRS Numbots Tapestry (Year 1)
Year 3 & 4	approx. 1.5 hr. per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reading○ Spellings○ English○ Maths	Purple Mash Homework book TTRS Numbots
Year 5	approx. 2 hrs. per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reading○ Spellings○ English○ Maths	Homework book
Year 6	approx. 2 hrs. per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reading○ Spellings○ Maths○ English	CPG Books
On occasions, there may be more themed-related, practical or investigative tasks set for classes.			

Children will be given enough time, usually around 5 days, to complete their homework.

The Role of Parents and Carers in supporting pupils

Parents / carers play a vital part in supporting pupils working at home. It is important that they:

- Provide a reasonable, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone or, more often for younger children, together with an adult.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Sign or make comment on their child's homework book, reading record or online learning platform (Tapestry/Purple Mash) to ensure that they are satisfied with their child's efforts.

The school views the pupils' learning as a partnership – the child, the parent and the school. It is important that children are offered guidance and support when completing homework and have a good working environment. A regular dialogue between home and school can be carried out through the use of the children's reading record books, homework books or their class online learning platform (Tapestry/Purple Mash) via which both teachers and parents can record comments. At the start of each academic year, the teacher will share the expectations and guidelines for homework for that year group. This will be displayed in homework books and on their class webpage.

If there are circumstances which make a child's ability to complete homework difficult e.g. lack of time, space, materials, IT, we will support families as far as we can to ensure that all children are given equal opportunity to complete their homework.

We do not expect the children to work longer than the approved time limit providing they have worked hard on their set tasks. If your child is taking longer than the recommended time, please stop and make a note in the homework book to that effect. Where a child is regularly exceeding these time guidelines please contact the school to discuss this. We want the children to enjoy their homework.

Respecting homework

All homework should be carefully respected and returned to school in good condition. Children should take responsibility for the care of their books.

Homework Books

All classes from Year 1 to Year 6 will have a homework book. The provision and style of homework books will be at the discretion of each individual teacher and will vary throughout the school. Your child will be informed at the beginning of each year of the system to be implemented. Expectations and guidelines for homework will be displayed in the front of their homework book

Incomplete homework

Pupils are given ample time to complete their homework, typically around five days. However, we understand that some children and their families may have very busy evenings, making it difficult to complete the assigned work. If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and unable to finish their homework on time, please provide a note or explanation from an adult. This will grant them an extra day to complete their work. If they still fail to complete it after the additional day, they will need to use their break time to catch up. This policy, along with parental support, helps reinforce the importance of responsibility and time management, preparing them for secondary school.

Marking

All homework children complete will be looked at, however there is no expectation for written comments in homework books, but this can be used when appropriate. All homework children complete will be looked at and marked following our feedback and marking policy. When homework has been reviewed, this might impact on future learning through our whole class feedback. Rewards will be given for completed homework following our behaviour policy.