

St Bede C of E Primary Academy



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.

Rationale for Homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. 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. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment and independence. We also acknowledge the importance of role 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 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.

Aims and Objectives

Part of our aim at St Bede Academy is to create good relationships between home and school. Regular, well-planned homework can:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- help pupils develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own and preparing them for the requirements of secondary education;
- promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- help children develop good work habits for the future;
- provide a contact for pupil/parent interaction;
- help parents gain an insight into their child's schoolwork;
- enable work to be personalised to the interest of individual children.

Types of Homework

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- Reading with a parent;
- a family visit to a local museum;
- learning parts for an assembly/production;
- going swimming;
- playing games which develop their physical skills;
- undertaking individual research for a project at the local library;
- learning number facts (tables);
- memorising a spelling pattern or times tables;
- learning to ride a bicycle safely;
- ensuring musical instruments are practised;
- research using the internet (school cannot be held responsible for the content of web sites not recommended by teachers);
- cooking, gardening, making things;
- explaining how things work;
- ensuring that children have opportunities to colour, paint, draw, stick, glue, etc;
- learning spellings;
- learning letters and sounds.

At St Bede Academy we provide a range of homework that is linked to the age of the child. Younger children will complete simple tasks that involve drawing, reading, other literacy and number work.

As the children progress through the school they will benefit from a wider range of tasks that enable them to prepare for entry to secondary school.

The main focus for these tasks will be literacy and numeracy, although when necessary homework will link to other subjects, as we believe that children who regularly read to and with parents/carers benefit by gaining in confidence and fluency as readers. We also set homework in upper school as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations and also to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Amount of Homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. In the Foundation Stage the main focus for homework is support with reading and recognising letters and sounds.

We expect children in Years 1 & 2 to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, the children will be provided with a number of homework activities to complete throughout the term, one of which should be completed per week, along with guided reading and spelling homework.

We expect children in Years 3 & 4 to spend approximately 15–20 minutes per night on homework and children in Years 5 & 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night. This is in line with the DfE guidelines that were issued in 1998. The homework set may vary weekly and will support what is being taught in school. The school also encourages the children to complete homework

that has been set on the school's CLC site as this enables the children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the areas being covered in the current term.

Rewards and sanctions

Lower School

Rewards for completing homework include: stickers, star cards, green cards and chance cards.

Upper School

Rewards for completing homework include: moving up the homework heaven ladder, raffle tickets, stickers, stamps and small prizes for the children who have reached the top of the homework heaven ladder.

Sanctions

Children who have not completed homework in Years 4, 5 & 6 will be asked to stay behind at break time and if a child has forgotten their homework on three occasions they will be given a detention.

Time allocation

Years 1 & 2	1.0 hour per week
Years 3 & 4	1.5 hours per week
Years 5 & 6	2.5 hours per week

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 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, use the internet and by 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 one of the Assistant Head Teachers.