

Crooksbar Primary School Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which 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 of Homework

One of the aims at Crooksbar 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 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

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 enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- ◆ to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ to promote the idea that learning extends beyond the classroom and can be achieved in many ways.

Types of Homework

The types of homework activities set across the school will differ according to the age, ability and learning needs of the children. Some homework activities will be written or formally recorded, some investigative and open ended, others mental and oral.

Foundation Stage

Nursery children take home SPLATT bags which contain a story book, tapes and games to play, they take this once a fortnight. At the beginning of each new topic, parents are provided with a home learning booklet which gives them ideas of what they could do at home to enhance their child's learning.

Reception children take home a CHATTER MATTERS bag fortnightly which contains all of the above, they are also given a reading book to take home and words to learn as appropriate. Children receive handwriting homework which is sent home weekly. Maths Challenge books are given out later in the year.

Key Stage One

At Key Stage 1 children are expected to read and to practise spellings over the week. All children will be given a piece of homework, usually English, Maths or topic related, each week. Some tasks may be practical rather than being recorded.

Key Stage Two

At Key Stage 2 children are expected to read and talk about what they have read each day. They should also learn spellings and tables daily.

In year 3 and 4, 30/40 minutes of mathematics is expected to be completed a week and in year 5 and 6, this should be at least an hour. The KIRFs should also be completed regularly. Handwriting, grammar terminology and reading targets can also be completed each week. These are available through the school website. Big Talk homework should also be completed every other Thursday. Regular research or creative projects are also set for the children, to link in with their current topic. Year 5/6 also receive a citizenship homework which they can complete if they wish.

Amount of Homework

We steadily increase the amount of homework that the children are expected to complete as they move through the school. We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework. 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 or more per night.

The role of Parents and Carers

At Crooksbarrow we value the role of parents and seek to involve them in their child's learning. It is important that parents appreciate the importance of setting a calm environment free of any distractions in which the child can concentrate. Parents are encouraged to discuss their homework with their child so that a better understanding of the work is developed and to reinforce what is being taught in school. Parents are encouraged to give feedback on any

issues arising from homework activities to ensure learning at home is a positive experience for parents and children.

Completion of Homework

It is expected that all children will complete the homework set. If a parent does not wish their child to do homework, the Headteacher requires written confirmation of this and it must be understood that the child may not progress at the speed of other children in their class.

Any homework which is not completed by KS2 children may require the child to complete it at school during lunchtimes; late homework may not be marked as the marking session may have already taken place. KS2 children are able to attend a homework club which allows them to access mathematics or to read/learn their spellings in a quiet atmosphere.

Planning

Medium term or weekly planning will indicate what type of homework could be given for each subject.

Assessment

Children's progress with their homework will be monitored by individual teachers with reference to the learning objective.

Differentiation

Differentiation with homework may take place by outcome or task. The abilities of all children will be taken into account when they are given the homework task.

Children with SEN

The ability of the child will always be taken into consideration when setting homework. As often as possible, children on the register will receive homework similar to that of their peers and with reference to their IEP's, if appropriate.

Cross-curricular links

Although homework is often linked to maths or English, it may be given for any subject from the curriculum.

Equal Opportunities

We aim to make the provision of homework available to all pupils, regardless of race, gender, class, religion and disability.

Development of skills

Homework should help to consolidate skills taught at school and occasionally may introduce new skills for the children to try.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the responsibility of each teacher to monitor homework in terms of completion and success.

Each team leader will monitor the implementation of the homework policy in each team.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of all pupils will be considered when homework is being set.

Resources

Basic resources needed for homework, pens, paper, etc, will be expected to be available at home, at times other resources may be provided by school.

Success Criteria

The success of this policy and the homework being set can be measured through:-

- ◆ Pupils receive homework at the appropriate level.
- ◆ Homework matches the objective.
- ◆ Pupils successfully complete the homework
- ◆ Pupils receive feedback about their homework or use it in class.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2017