

King's Park Primary

Homework Policy

Rationale Homework is a key and integral part of children's education. In considering possible items for homework teachers should keep in mind whether

- The pupils for whom the task is set will be able to carry out at home or whether they will experience difficulties due to the level of ability expected or the practicalities of it taking place in the individual homes.
- Its nature will cause undue work in assessing or correcting it. Problems of this kind can become cumulative and add to workload.

Aims Homework in King's Park Primary is designed to:-

- practise and reinforce work done in class
- prepare for future class work
- encourage independent learning
- develop good habits of self-discipline
- provide opportunities for parents to understand what and how their child is learning and to engage with and support their child's learning.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to further develop digital literacy skills and access online resources eg Sumdog which enhance their learning

Amount of Homework Attention should always be given to the time likely to be needed to complete the tasks set for individual pupils. For this reason care should be taken with regard to having children complete work unfinished in class. In most cases it is better to set precise tasks which are likely to be done in a set time rather than to complete exercises of variable length accumulated during the day. Homework will be set on a Monday and handed into the class teacher on Friday.

For P1 – P3 an acceptable amount of time up to 10-20 minutes per night

For P4-P7 an acceptable amount of time up to 20-30 minutes per night

Homework should not normally be given on Fridays or at holiday times.

Type of Homework The areas which can be targeted for homework should be seen in three distinct categories.

A. Routine practice usually within Numeracy ,Literacy & Health & Wellbeing

1. Spelling/Grammar/Handwriting
2. Mental Maths/Tables
3. Reading/Phonics

B. Extending & Applying Class Learning

1. Reading for pleasure
2. Reading for information e.g. TV, newspaper or internet
3. Preparing presentations and talks – develop effective research skills.

C. Home Learning

Twice a year children will take part in Home Learning Activities, where they will have a choice of activity to undertake linked to the work being covered in class

Information to Parents Parents will be given detailed information about the curriculum and homework expectations of their child via the termly class newsletter.

Homework diaries will be provided and parents and teachers may use the diary to communicate with one another. A parent version of King's Park Primary Homework Policy will also be issued to each parent (Appendix 1)

Roles of Parents Since our stated aims involved parents, it is clear that parents should be well aware of the purpose of homework and how we expect them to respond.

Therefore they should be prepared to expect homework at the times described above and to enquire if none appears at home. Their role will be made known to parents at induction days and frequently thereafter at meetings and by newsletter. Teachers should also take whatever opportunities arise to get home this message.

With regard to their role while homework is being carried out, parents should be encouraged to try to create an appropriate environment and to take an interest. They should however be discouraged from completing tasks for children. Discussion of what is being done or contributing suggestions to approaches to investigative tasks without taking over is desirable.

If a child is experiencing difficulties with homework tasks parents should contact the school. Should any teacher suspect that homework is being done by anyone other than the pupil concerned, this should be brought to the attention of the Depute Head Teacher.

It is helpful if parents initial or sign homework diaries as an indication only that the child has carried it out to the best of his/her ability and not necessarily to indicate that it is correct.

Parents should check their child's homework and give the opportunity for errors to be corrected.

Parents should also be encouraged to ensure as far as possible that while their child is doing homework it receives his/her individual attention. Often problems over homework occur when parents believe it has taken the child an excessive amount of time to complete work which has been subject to frequent interruptions e.g. to watch television.

Role of the Teacher Teachers should set homework on a Monday to be returned by Friday. They should explain the purpose of the tasks set and ensure that tasks are appropriate for each child. Effective feedback should be provided on each child's progress should be monitored. Teachers should inform parents if homework is not being completed (See appendix 2). If the situation does not improve it should be referred to the appropriate DHT who will send another letter to the parent. (See appendix 3) If there is still no improvement a letter will be sent by the Head Teacher (See appendix 4) stating that no further homework will be issued.

Role of Pupil Pupils should take responsibility to record homework tasks neatly in their diaries and ensure that it is completed on time. They should inform the teacher if there is a problem and talk to their parents about the homework. Pupils should complete tasks conscientiously recognising the value of homework and taking responsibility for their own learning.

Value of Parental Involvement in Homework The main purpose of any homework task will be to try to ensure that each child becomes a more effective and confident learner. This is more likely to happen when the significant adults who support the child are working together towards a common aim. Parents are therefore a central part of homework practice.