

Homework policy

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Authorisation

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Date:

Change History

Editor	Comment	Date	Version
T Farrelly	Reviewed and updated	Sept 2014	1.1
Jo Stawman	Checked	Sept 2014	1.2
Jo Stawman	Reviewed and updated	Oct 2016	1.3
T Farrelly	Reviewed	Oct 2016	1.4

Document References

#	Title	Date	Version
1	Homework: guidelines for primary and secondary schools (Teachernet website)	Undated	
2	Courtwood Approved Policy Template	17/11/10	1.0

Distribution List

Name	Date	Method
Full Governing Body	Sept 2014	MLE
School Community	Sept 2014	Frontier/Office/Policies
Full Governing Body	Oct. 2016	MLE

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This document sets out how new policies and updates to existing policies are agreed at Courtwood Primary School. For a policy to be approved by the Governors this process must be followed.

Background

Courtwood Primary School is a 1 form entry Primary School educating over 200 young children, the school has policies to ensure that the education and learning environment are as good as they can be.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
MLE	Managed Learning Environment – our virtual school, available online. Each pupil has their own password, which a parent/carer can use, to gain access to certain 'rooms' within the virtual school.
SEND	Special education need or disability
FGB	Full Governing Body

POLICY

'Homework' is any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.

The aim of the homework policy is to:

- ensure homework is clearly linked to the National Curriculum, especially with reading
- ensure it is manageable for pupils, teachers and parent / carers
- ensure parents / carers receive a homework schedule
- promote learning at home as an essential part of good education
- reinforce classroom learning
- help children to develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning
- support development of independent learning skills

As a result:

- there is an established contact with all parents / carers
- both parents – where this is the situation - become more involved in their child's education
- parents/carers provide a significant amount of quality time with their child
- parents/carers become more knowledgeable about the school curriculum
- parents/carers develop a clearer appreciation of their child's true strengths and weaknesses
- inequality of educational opportunity is reduced
- esteem between parents, pupils and teachers is enhanced
- family learning activities are promoted
- the effectiveness of home / school partnerships are enhanced
- standards are raised

Homework:

Homework is set half-termly by the class teacher. Homework for the half term will be distributed at the start of each term, and will link to the class' learning journey theme (for example, The Romans, The Water Cycle etc.)

There are weekly non-negotiable tasks (reading, spellings and times tables) which must be completed weekly/daily. In addition to this, there are a further three maths tasks, three literacy tasks and three topic based tasks. Parents and children must complete at least one task from each area, but may complete all three if they so wish. Parents and carers thereby have the opportunity to increase the amount of time spent by their child on homework should they wish.

Each child is given a Homework Book to complete the written tasks in, with a copy of the half terms' tasks included.

A date the homework is due is clearly printed on the task sheet. There is also a mid-term check date, which is a point in the middle of the half term, where teachers will request the homework book is brought into school so a check can be made that ensures some tasks have been completed. It is expected that parents and carers will support their children in allowing adequate time for homework to be completed and to encourage time management skills, so that homework is not all left until just before the due date.

Reading:

Children should be take part in reading activities on a daily basis. For younger children this could be sharing books with family members or listening to stories. For older children this could be engaging with different texts i.e newspapers or instructions.

Spellings:

Children from year 1 onwards will be given spellings linked to a particular sound; children will be expected to find their own words also linked to the sound. Spelling tests will be based on the words given and other words that have the related sound. Reception children may be expected to practise phonic based high frequency words.

Numeracy:

Most numeracy homework will focus on learning number facts, (e.g. number bonds) and times tables. Some homework will require practicing a skill taught in class or a problem solving activity.

Inclusion:

Homework tasks are set to ensure they are accessible, purposeful and suitably challenging for all pupils including pupils with SEND or more able pupils. The format of the homework allows children, with the support of their parents and carers, to select a level of challenge that is personalised to their needs.

Unfinished classwork:

In addition to regular homework there may be occasions where it is necessary for children to finish work at home that has not been completed in school due to lack of concentration.

Holiday homework and unavoidable school closures:

Projects may sometimes be set as holiday work. This can be an excellent opportunity to learn how to research a topic of learning. The internet can be very useful; please encourage your child to extract facts from text rather than cut and paste information they may not understand.

Marking:

- Reading records should always be updated, by the child or the parent, dependant on the age of the child. Teachers/TAs will initial the record when they check it. Records are checked weekly.
- Homework tasks completed in the homework book will be at least cursory marked by the class teacher. Teachers are not expected to detail mark homework.
- The spelling test result will often be in the same book as the spelling so that parents know the result. Where this is not possible, teachers will communicate the result to parents in an agreed manner (to be agreed at the start of the year with class teachers/parents)
- Projects will be shared and rewarded at school. Many classes have displays that showcase work completed as part of homework. Children can be rewarded via merit assembly.

Homework completed well will always be acknowledged and praised at school. This is often done verbally, but stickers will also be given.