



Living Life in all its Fullness - John 10:10

## **KIRK FENTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### Homework Policy

September 2019

Review Date: Autumn 2021

#### **Our Vision**

Rooted in Christian belief, our vision for every member of this school community is to feel valued and respected, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, race, faith, belief or ability. Through developing a love of learning, each individual will have the opportunity to reach their full potential and aspire to become the person they were born to be.

*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:14-16*

## Introduction

1. 'Homework' refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.
2. The role of parents in their children's education has long been recognised as a significant factor in educational success and school improvement (Epstein, 1996, EEF/ Sutton Trust 2012)
3. Research clearly documents that when parents actively participate in their children's education, achievement increases and attitude to learning improves.
4. At Kirk Fenton School we believe that home learning should be fun and purposeful rather than a chore. Research indicates that homework is less valuable when it becomes routine or more perfunctory. We feel that children should still have plenty of time after school to play and take part in other activities, or simply do nothing and rest.

## Purpose

5. The purposes of home learning:
  - Consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding
  - Exploits resources for learning, of all kinds, at home
  - Encourages children, as they get older, to develop the self-confidence and discipline needed to study on their own
  - Enables an effective partnership between home and school.
6. For young children very short activities of different kinds provide an important opportunity to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment. It is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities which is most valuable in promoting children's learning.

Simple games, sharing a book and finding out about words or numbers are typical activities.

As children get older, home learning provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose. However, children are not expected to work in isolation and will always need the support and encouragement of an interested adult.

7. Reading

Regular reading is vital and should be a **daily activity for all** children. For young children this may mean that the parent does the reading and the child talks about the story and the pictures. If a child does not bring a book home from school there are many opportunities to develop reading skills within the home – reading TV information, looking at maps, non-fiction, using the internet or the many books that children have in their bedrooms but don't always have time to read!

The length of time that children are expected to spend on home learning may vary and increase as children get older.

## 8. Expectations

### *Foundation Stage (Reception)*

In the early years we do not expect children to do formal home learning of any kind. However, we hope that parents will spend time with their children playing games, talking about books and about what they have been doing at school. We will send home phonic sounds to rehearse and practise, and children may bring home books to read and maths games to play. Home learning should be fun and we do not expect tired children to sit still and work every night after a long day at school. Reading with a parent is very important as long as it is encouraging the child to love books and want to read and we hope that every child will experience a story every day – bedtime stories are the best way of promoting a love of books and enriching language.

### *Key Stage 1*

In Years 1 and 2 we would expect children to spend approximately 1 hour on home learning spread over the week (predominantly reading).

Reading is a key daily activity and every child should spend 10 or 15 minutes reading time or sharing a book with an adult every day. Phonics should also be practised regularly.

In Year 2, the class teacher will send home a variety of English and maths tasks or games lasting 10 or 15 minutes each and related to the work that children have been doing in school that week. Occasionally other activities relating to topic work will be sent home.

### *Key Stage 2*

Reading remains a daily activity for all children. Even though children may be confident and fluent readers it is important to develop comprehension skills. Reading with an adult, and listening to an adult model reading, is important to ensure that these higher order reading skills are practised and more demanding texts are accessible and understood by the child.

Children will be expected to be more independent in their home learning and take responsibility for completing the tasks.

#### *Years 3 and 4*

In Years 3 and 4 we would expect children to spend approximately 1.5 hours spread over the week on home learning (including reading).

Teachers will set a variety of English and maths tasks or games related to the work the children have completed that week and will occasionally be set tasks relating to topics being covered. Spellings and times tables will also be set; we often expect spellings to be written within the context of a sentence to aid memory and understanding.

#### *Years 5 and 6*

In Years 5 and 6 we would expect children to spend approximately 2 hours each week spread over the week on home learning (including reading).

As in Years 3 and 4, the teachers will set home learning tasks to include English and maths covered that week and sometimes topic work. Spellings to learn will be a regular task. Home learning tasks will be designed to consolidate learning and practise new skills.

#### **For all years:**

**Home learning is designed for use by children and their parents and therefore how much you engage with the activities is left to your discretion.**

Home learning should not place heavy demands on class teachers in either preparation or marking and therefore teachers will set activities for the whole class or groups but not individuals except in specific cases. Teachers will not collect in or mark the home learning; it is there to provide you with an indication of what the children have been learning that week and for you to support your child.

No child will be expected to spend more than half an hour on any activity at any one time. If your child is having difficulty completing the task, it should be stopped after 20 minutes and the difficulty reported to the class teacher.

Home learning should not become a problem for children or parents, it is at your discretion.

Home learning will not be set to cover work that has been missed while a child has been on holiday.

Where possible, class teachers will establish a regular pattern of home tasks to ensure predictability. They will inform parents of their weekly routines and expectations termly.

9. The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored regularly by the Headteacher and the senior leadership team. The local governing body will evaluate the impact of the policy through parental and pupil feedback, and the learning and progress of pupils throughout the school.