



## HASLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

### HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is defined as:

**“any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents and carers”**

**Through this policy we aim to:**

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards the independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil;
- improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils;
- extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision;
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work in partnership;
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs;
- at Y6 – to prepare children for secondary transfer.

#### **Focus**

The main focus will be English and Maths with added programmes of science and other subjects as the pupils move up the school.

Regular reading is seen as vital. Reading practice and listening to others read is essential and may include not simply reading for pleasure but for a specific purpose e.g. reading a reference book for a history project or preparing an oral presentation.

In Maths, homework may involve number games and tasks with more formal exercises as the children progress throughout the school.

#### **Time Allocation**

In Years 3 and 4, homework should be set up to a maximum of 1.5 hours per week with the main emphasis on English and Maths. This should include spellings, reading and times tables practise in addition to activities that reinforce skills covered in class.

In Years 5 and 6, homework should be set up to a maximum of 30 minutes per day with continuing emphasis on English and Maths but also ranging widely over the curriculum where skills taught in English and Maths are applied in a variety of contexts e.g. writing an explanation text about work covered in DT. In addition, children should be encouraged to read on their own or with others for a maximum of 20 minutes per day.

## **Additional Needs**

At times children of varying abilities may benefit from additional tasks separate from homework set to the rest of the class. However, it is important that whenever possible there is opportunity given to attempt work in common with other children. In order to pitch the work so that it is neither too hard nor too easy, liaison will be required between the class teachers; parents and support staff. Tasks should:

- have a clear focus;
- give opportunities for children to succeed;
- help develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- be varied – not purely written assignments;
- be manageable for teachers.

## **Responsibilities**

**The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team** will promote homework as an important means of contributing to the progress of all pupils, via a regular programme so that everyone – teachers, children and parents – knows what to expect each week and by ensuring that the demands on pupils and staff are monitored so that they are even and balanced.

**Class Teachers** will be responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parents on a day to day basis.

Teachers will have high expectations of pupils completing homework and ensure that pupils will receive prompt, clear feedback on their work. They will provide opportunities for regular feedback and discussion with parents.

**Governors** will ensure that the Homework Policy is regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure that it is supporting pupils' learning.

**Parents** will be treated as key partners in their children's learning and encouraged to support their development. They will be encouraged to:-

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place where pupils can do their homework;
- show their children that they value homework and will support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework;
- become actively involved in joint homework activities – as far as they are able;
- to seek support from the teaching staff if and when difficulties develop.

## **Liaison**

Feedback from both teachers and parents will be important to ensure that all concerned will be clear of what is expected of them. There is an opportunity for parents to comment on their child's homework via the Homework Record Sheet.

**Monitoring and Evaluation** – will be reviewed regularly.

The core of the homework programme will be the development of English and Maths skills.

### **Range of Tasks**

**Weekly:** reading activity;  
spellings set and tested weekly;  
maths activity e.g. tables/number facts and tested weekly;  
handwriting task

**Termly:** Over a term a number of possible activities may be considered:

Writing – linked to a genre taught in class  
Drawing (monthly)  
Designing  
Making a simple model  
Simple experiment  
Investigation  
Research  
Interviews  
Maths assignment/problem solving  
Preparing a talk  
Debate

Progression in learning skills to be developed gradually by extending homework tasks:-

- through application of Maths and English skills to other areas of the curriculum;
- from practise and learning to research, problem solving and written tasks;
- from closely structured tasks to more open-ended assignments.

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