



George Fentham Endowed School
Hampton in Arden

George Fentham Endowed School Homework Policy

Autumn 2013

1. Introduction:

Our homework policy has been reviewed in consultation with staff, children, governors and parents.

As a school we believe homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in maths, English and other curriculum areas, helps raise the level of achievement of individual pupils, provides opportunities for parents and their children to work together and, thereby, foster an effective partnership between home and school.

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school which is reflected in our Home-School Agreement.

We recognise that all children need leisure time, therefore, our policy reflects a balance so that children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support whilst still allowing 'down time.' While homework is crucially important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of extra-curricular clubs that we offer, or those of other organisations, that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Examples of homework activities are provided below. Homework is set to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so by the time our pupils progress into Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for their secondary school. Most of the homework is provided for completion over the course of a weekend, a number of school days, week, fortnight or term so it can be made to fit around family lifestyles and commitments. Other homework e.g. reading, multiplication tables, spellings are proven to be better when completed in shorter time scales.

The aims and objectives of the homework policy are set out below. This is followed by examples of homework activities, roles and responsibilities. The use of ICT for homework is also discussed in this policy.

2. Aims and objectives:

The aims and objectives of our homework policy are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;





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- to promote co-operation and collaboration 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 additional educational experiences outside school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

2. Homework Activities:

All homework tasks and activities are designed to consolidate and reinforce knowledge, understanding and skill development in Maths and English and enhance cross curricular teaching.

Activities could include:

- Phonics
- Spellings
- Punctuation & Grammar
- Reading
- Times Tables
- Problem Solving
- Re-drafting
- Researching
- Consolidating
- Pre-teaching activities e.g. What do you know about...?
- Projects (set over a number of weeks)

3. Homework Feedback

All children receive prompt feedback on their homework in a variety of forms such as:

- verbal
- written
- class discussion
- praise and recognition during Celebration Assembly

4. The use of ICT:

The Internet and the huge range and uses of interactive technologies eg. Wikipedia etc. has made a significant addition to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teaching staff expect our pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's





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access to the Internet, reflecting our whole school commitment to E-Safety (please see our policy on E-Safety).

We do not allow pupils to use their own memory sticks in school because of the risk of transferring viruses onto our networks.

5. Roles and responsibilities:

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Standards and Curriculum Committee and to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy
- nominated a link governor to liaise with the Headteacher and to report back to the Governing Body
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- promote this policy by raising its status and importance
- ensure that homework is built into teachers planning
- provide supportive guidance for parents
- keep up to date with new developments with regard to homework
- monitor and evaluate this policy

Role of the Teaching Staff

Teaching staff must:

- integrate homework into their curriculum planning
- set homework in line with this policy and discuss at the start of the year during our "Meet the Teacher" evening.
- set interesting tasks or activities
- set homework appropriate to each child
- explain when, what and how the work is to be done so that each child clearly understands
- provide feedback in line with our Marking Policy

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are asked to:

- sign the Home-School Agreement indicating their support for homework
- reinforce the value of homework to their children
- provide a suitable space in their home where their children can concentrate on their homework
- establish a homework routine which incorporates no distractions
- provide materials pens, pencils etc.
- go through the homework before their child starts and discuss the completed work when finished
- make the experience pleasurable
- find time to work with their child or be at hand if a problem arises





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- discuss, encourage and praise their child's efforts
- contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it
- contribute to school evaluation so the school can monitor and evaluate its effectiveness

Role of Children

Children are asked to:

- complete their homework and hand it in on time
- listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them
- contribute to pupil interviews and pupil questionnaires on homework for the school to monitor and evaluate
- use feedback on their homework, from their teachers, to help them improve
- complete their homework using appropriate writing materials
- have a go at all their homework activities
- tell their teacher if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or are experiencing difficulties in doing it

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date of Adoption: Autumn 2013

Date of Renewal: Autumn 2016

Signed: _____

