

Fairfield Primary School Homework Policy (reviewed April 2023)

At Fairfield Primary School we are fully committed to extending the learning and achievement of all our pupils. We acknowledge and recognise the involvement of parents and carers in this process and, by working in partnership with parents, we will continue to give parents the opportunity to support their child's learning at home. At Fairfield Primary School we have always recognised the expertise available at home and we will seek to develop valuable partnerships already established.

Purpose of Homework

- To develop an effective partnership between home and school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To exploit resources for learning of all kinds, at home.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading or research.
- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed at later stages of education.

For our children, developing a partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in their learning is the key purpose.

Time Allocation

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOMEWORK	
Nursery and Reception	No specific guidance
Year 1 and Year 2	1 hour per week
Y3 and Y4	1 hr 20 minutes
Y5 and Y6	2 hrs

The Role of Parents and Carers

- To provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework together with an adult if required.
- To make it clear to pupils that they value homework and to support school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- To encourage pupils and praise them when they have been successful in finishing their homework.

- To ensure that where homework has not been completed that they send a simple note to inform the teacher. We realise that there are sometimes additional pressures on family life which may occasionally mean that it is not possible for children to complete a task and in these cases it is helpful if the teacher is kept informed.

Making Homework Manageable

- For general homework the individual class teacher will be responsible for the setting and marking, if this is appropriate. For Literacy and Numeracy the teacher for the child's group will set and mark homework linked to their lessons. The best quality homework links into a planned lesson and is used as an integral part of that lesson, although there are also other reasons for giving homework.
- Teachers appreciate parents' comments and use these to help them monitor the child's progress.
- Staff will aim to give brief, clear written instructions about the activity either in books or on the activity sheet.
- There will be an appropriate amount of time given for each task and deadlines will not be for the following day.

Types and Amount of Homework

The main focus of homework and home activities for KS1 children should be on Literacy and Numeracy. At KS2 there will be a broader range of subjects covered which will develop in complexity and range as children move through the school, although the need for continuing support for numeracy and literacy links to homework is strongly supported. Homework does not always mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, which are most valuable in promoting children's learning. Parents and carers need to be sensitive to the needs of their child whenever they seem tired or busy with other activities; homework should not be seen as a 'battle' for parents to get their children to complete. Project work, linked to the topic and spread over time, provides an opportunity for parents and children to work together and can be very exciting and productive types of homework.

Literacy

Regular reading to and with parents is vital throughout the Primary years. For children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 this will involve looking at and talking about books together, reading together and learning key words as well as playing Language games together. We want children to enjoy books and reading and sometimes children need to have less challenging texts or activities in order to consolidate their learning and so that they feel they aren't failing. Older children may have extended projects or activities which are intended to be carried out by the child with minimal support. Reading with and to all children, whatever their age continues to be the most important activity parents can do with their children.

Most children in Key Stage Two will be able to access Reading Plus at home which is an online reading programme.

After reading, we expect much of the child's literacy homework to be focused on improving spelling skills. Children will have weekly spellings to learn and it is expected that this will be looked at by the child at home several times throughout the week in order to give them the best chance of learning the spellings/spelling patterns.

Numeracy

Number games and number activities will be given to the children regularly, usually once a week. Parents will be given notice of the sort of Numeracy work being covered each term via the Curriculum Newsletter in order to support their child in a more informed way. Children will be expected to work on learning key number facts (e.g. number bonds to 10, addition and subtraction facts for numbers under 20, times tables). These facts need to be learnt by heart to enable children to make rapid mental calculations and will form a central part of much of your child's numeracy homework. Maths homework is usually in the form of mymaths online.

Special Educational Needs

Children who have been identified as having Special Educational Needs will have homework set alongside the other children in the class. This will be tailored to the needs of the child and will be designed to help the child succeed. It is also important that these children are seen to be doing as much in common with the rest of the class as possible. Homework should not be seen as a way of attempting to catch up with the rest of the class.

General Tips for Parents and Carers

- Be positive with your child.
- Do not do your child's homework but help them do it.
- Be patient.
- Little and often is better than long sessions (particularly for reading and the learning of spellings and number facts).
- For younger children, try to find somewhere quiet where the child can have your individual attention even for 5 or 10 minutes. Older children also need somewhere quiet to work.
- Negotiate the time for doing homework according to your child's character and needs; don't try to get them to do homework during their favourite television programme.
- Show your child that you value what they are doing.

HOMEWORK TIMETABLE

Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Home loan books to encourage shared reading <input type="checkbox"/> Some topic based activities
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Maths games/activities <input type="checkbox"/> Library books <input type="checkbox"/> Reading books <input type="checkbox"/> Key words
KS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reading (key task) <input type="checkbox"/> Spellings/ key words (key task) <input type="checkbox"/> Learning key number facts (key task) <input type="checkbox"/> Maths games/activities <input type="checkbox"/> Maths sheets
KS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reading (key task) <input type="checkbox"/> Times Tables (key task) <input type="checkbox"/> Spellings (key task) <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy tasks <input type="checkbox"/> Numeracy tasks <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional project work

Across Key Stage 1 and 2 – your child’s key tasks will always be their reading and learning of spellings and key number facts. These are essential to your child’s success and time must be set aside for this.