



South Hykeham Community Primary School

Wath Lane, South Hykeham

Lincoln LN6 9PG

Telephone/Fax: (01522) 681919

Headteacher: Mr John Richardson BSc (Hons) P.G.C.E.

Homework Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1** Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1** Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 2.2** Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.



www.south-hykeham.lincs.sch.uk

E-mail: john.richardson@south-hykeham.lincs.sch.uk

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

4.1 We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings or mathematical facts as part of their homework. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school and local library and the Internet whilst being aware that ICT provision varies considerably.

4.2 At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined in paragraph 4.1 but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set literacy, numeracy and topic based homework routinely each week and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for tests as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

4.3 At the end of each term a piece of homework is set to complete during the holiday that is based around a certain theme or topic. This gives children a greater amount of freedom in demonstrating their learning and enhances speaking and listening skills children present their homework to the rest of their class.

5 Amount of homework

5.1 We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We expect Key Stage 1 children to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15–20 minutes per night on homework and children in years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night. This is in line with the DfEE guidelines that were issued in 1998.

5.2 Children are encouraged to hand in homework on time. If this doesn't happen repeatedly, children are asked to complete homework in their own time.



www.south-hykeham.lincs.sch.uk

E-mail: john.richardson@south-hykeham.lincs.sch.uk

6 Pupils with special educational needs

- 6.1** We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to the Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

7 The role of parents

- 7.1** Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.
- 7.2** If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If parents still have concerns, then they should see the Headteacher.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1** It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents and children are invited to express their views on homework through our cycle of consultation.

Signed:

Date:



www.south-hykeham.lincs.sch.uk

E-mail: john.richardson@south-hykeham.lincs.sch.uk