

Policy Statement for

Homework



Policies to refer to and cross-reference:

Online Safety, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Early Years Foundation
Safeguarding and Child Protection, Attendance, British Values, Complaints

Change History	Summary of Key Changes
May 2017	Updated to new format and to reflect new style of homework
March 2018	Updated to reflect changes to online homework

Introduction

Homework is defined as anything 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 the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

At Nailsworth C of E Primary School, homework is considered a very important part of a child's education, which can add much to a child's development. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as successful learners.

We believe that doing homework is one of the ways in which children can begin to really participate in their own journey of learning. This is most successful when it's supported by adults at home.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, 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 activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We believe that children develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop a love of learning;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- 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;
- to allow children and parents to enjoy the learning process together.

Owner:	Standards Committee	Delegated To	Head/Dep. Head
Review Frequency	2 years	Updated	March 2018
		Date ratified by Governing Body	March 2018
Version`	3.0	Next Review	March 2020
Review Author	E. Geller	Published on Website	Yes

Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

We set a variety of homework activities. These may be presented in a range of formats:

- “Scapbook” activities. Each child is given a scrapbook containing a menu of tasks completed. The child then selects a task of their choice from the menu to complete each week. We encourage parents to become fully involved in the learning process with their child, to make each task as rewarding as possible.
- Online activities, such as “Doodle Maths”.
- Written activities.
- Games to promote learning.

In addition, each Key Stage sets homework.

In the **Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1** we give children books to take home and read with their parents. We give guidance to parents on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.

We also ask **Key Stage 1** children to learn spellings or mathematical tables as part of their homework. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage children to use not only school books but also the local library, as well as the Internet.

At **Key Stage 2** we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined in the previous paragraph and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood, specifically in Year 6.

Homework is marked and/or feedback is given in a variety of age appropriate ways. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

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The role of parents

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 and when they feel it to be necessary, to 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.

We ask parents to check the home-school book/reading record regularly, and to sign it as requested.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

Use of ICT

We are aware that not all children have access to ICT equipment. There is no expectation that children should be using ICT equipment at home, but some will. The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found from books, CD-roms or the internet, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading or copying and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many safe websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. When children are accessing the internet at home, whether from a computer or mobile device, we highly recommend that parental controls are in place to protect your children whilst they are online. If you would like further guidance on how to set up parental controls, please check our school website page, Protecting Your Child Online: <https://www.nailsworthschool.org.uk/index.php/protecting-your-child-online>

Monitoring and review

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. 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 complete a questionnaire each year, as well as during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by a parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our head teacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

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