

Skelton Primary School  
Homework Policy

‘A good well-managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children’s education.’

(DfES Homework Guidance Document)

**Aim**

The aim of this policy is to ensure a whole school consistent approach to homework and to make homework manageable for all concerned.

As the primary educators of their children, parents are encouraged to support and reinforce the shared expectations of school. Learning is a shared responsibility between children, parents and staff.

In primary school the purpose of homework changes as children get older. For younger children developing a partnership with parents or carers, and involving them actively in children’s learning, is the key purpose. As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning.

**Purpose of Homework**

- To develop an effective partnership between school, parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school in helping all children to achieve their potential;
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- To exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
- To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to class work;
- To extend school learning, for example, through additional reading;
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study independently.

**Homework tasks may include:**

- Reading at home with/to an adult; (Please use Home Reading Books/Cards);
- Practising and revising basic skills (spellings, tables);
- Research for particular topics (using a range of sources);  
(Own written work not internet print outs.)
- Follow-up work;

(It is not recommended that children be set extended pieces of written literacy work as homework. Such work is best done within school to ensure understanding and a quality end product.)

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Suggested time allocations for homework:

Years 1 and 2 = 1 hour/week

Years 3 and 4 = 90 minutes/week

Years 5 and 6 = 30 minutes/day

N.B. These are guidelines only and are not statutory.

(A typical Y5/6 homework week may include: 30 minutes of maths; 45 minutes on topic research/follow-up; reading 3 times a week for 15 minutes and learning of spellings for 30 minutes = 2 hours 30 minutes.)

**Daily** reading recommended by the government for **all primary children** can be done as part of the homework.

In the Foundation Stage children take home action words, letter sounds and blends to learn. Children may also be given tasks which involve finding things out and bringing in objects from home. In Nursery home activities involve using 'Blast' resources. Parents are encouraged to share books daily with their children. Some books borrowed from school have activities or games to supplement them and consolidate class learning.

**Shared Responsibilities**

**Teachers are responsible for:**

- Establishing homework procedures;
- Communicating such procedures to parents through a year group newsletter at the beginning of the year;
- Ensuring children have a home reading record (card or book) and keeping a class record of this;
- Ensuring that children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them;
- Preparing and following up homework tasks;
- Rewarding quality work with appropriate recognition reflecting the school merit system;
- Contacting parents about homework tasks not completed (if appropriate);
- Setting appropriate homework tasks **which reinforce and consolidate class learning**;
- Using homework and Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) in conjunction to reinforce learning;
- Communicating to parents the availability of study support opportunities as part of the Extended Schools Agenda.

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**Pupils are responsible for:**

- Tackling homework promptly and with a positive attitude;
- Reading at home and returning Home Reading card/book on time; (Remember our Home Reading Challenge)!
- Making full use of all the opportunities they are presented with;
- Being organised and remembering to take homework home and return it on time;
- Taking responsibility for their own learning and completing work within an agreed time;
- Taking pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected. (Children should apply the same rules for pen/pencil use as in class work – no coloured pens, no writing in felt tip, etc. See presentation policy.)

**Parents are responsible for:**

- Providing suitable, quiet surroundings where pupils can do their homework alone, i.e., not in front of the television;
- Encouraging younger family members to play quieter games if in the same room;
- Making it clear to children that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- Encouraging children to persevere with a task and giving support if appropriate.
- Giving due importance to non-written tasks such as listening to children read on a regular basis and supporting the school's weekly Home Reading Challenge;
- Assisting with the learning of weekly spelling and tables;
- Keeping school informed of any changes in the child's learning circumstances which may affect learning.

**Making homework manageable:**

Homework should not be a stressful experience between parent and child. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Please contact school if this is happening.

Depending on the task set/age of children, homework may be marked together in class.

Children should be encouraged to complete homework tasks through the school's reward system (rather than being punished for non-completion).

Homework/Study Support Club will be set up shortly.

K Pusztai  
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