

BROOMFIELD SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Aims

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 provide educational experiences not possible in school;
to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Guidelines

Type of Homework

We set a variety of homework activities depending upon the age and needs of the pupils. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read and talk about 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 and/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. For example, in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons.

At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set English and maths homework routinely each week. Some of this work, such as spellings, reading & learn by heart facts for maths are ongoing activities which help to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home. Children may also be given further activities to support the work they have been doing in a subject at that particular time, for example work on multiplication in maths. The activity will be familiar to the child and will be differentiated to meet their needs.

We may also ask them to conduct research into our topic themes to enhance and develop our work in school. This homework would be incorporated into their topic work.

Amount of Homework

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 no more than one hour a week doing homework, this will include time spent reading and talking about books with a parent/carer. We expect children in years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 15–20 minutes per night on homework (no more than an hour and a half per week) and children in years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 30 minutes per night (no more than two and a half hours per week). This is in line with the DFEE (now DCSF) guidelines that were issued in 1998. Homework will not generally be given for completion during school holidays and where possible pupils will be given two nights to complete homework tasks.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Gifted and Talented Pupils

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) and their personal needs. Homework tasks for gifted and talented pupils may be of a more 'open-ended' investigative nature with pupils expected to work more independently on such tasks.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The teacher is responsible for setting appropriate homework for their class, giving a completion date and for monitoring its return.

The teacher should mark the homework and discuss any issues which arise with the individual pupil. On occasions peer marking may be used or pupils may mark their own work.

Pupils are to ensure that they place their homework into their bag and take it home.

Pupils must ask the teacher or teaching assistant if they are unsure about what they are to do or when it is to be returned to school.

Pupils are to ensure that they complete and return the work as requested. If they fail to complete homework without a good reason they will be expected to complete it at school during break times. If they persistently fail to complete homework the class teacher will speak to their 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 and return them to school. 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.

If parents have any problems or 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 head teacher. 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.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Parents complete a questionnaire during the school's OFSTED inspection, and as part of our ongoing self evaluation they are asked to complete questionnaires by the head teacher. Our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our head teacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

Who will be responsible for monitoring? Head Teacher & Governing Body

Adopted by Governing Body

(Date)

Review Date **2010**