



BROOKE HILL ACADEMY TRUST

Homework Policy

This policy is reviewed biennially by the governing body, and was last reviewed on:-

November 2018

Signature

(Chair of Brooke Hill Academy Trust)

Print Name

Introduction

Brooke Hill Academy Trust regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- *Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child;*
- *Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics;*
- *Extend school learning, for example through additional reading;*
- *To help develop a love of reading;*
- *Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.*

At Brooke Hill Academy Trust, staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out of school activities e.g. swimming, ballet, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc. Homework activities will only be set during term time, as we appreciate the need for high quality family time during the school holidays however, we would hope that children will want to continue to read during their time away from school.

Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability. We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. Children attending peripatetic music lessons are also expected to practise in their own time. Please see attached appendix for details on the roles of adults to support out of school learning.

Expectations

Home Reading

The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that children will read for pleasure in their own time. Foundation Stage and Key Stage One pupils will be provided with a suitable school reading book (as well as phonics work, where appropriate), which can be taken home to read with a parent or other adult person. Pupils in Key Stage 2 will be expected to take responsibility for their own reading books as necessary.

Foundation Stage children should be encouraged to read little and often, as well as sharing books at home. All Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children are expected to read for at least 20 minutes, three times per week. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to or read to their child. The date, book title, pages read and a brief comment should be added with a parent's/carer's signature. Questioning your child on what they are reading, who the main characters are, what they imagine will happen next etc. will help to develop skills of comprehension (understanding) and inference (an idea or conclusion that's drawn from evidence in the text).

Spellings

Spellings will be given to each child in KS1 and KS2 to learn using the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check method. Some spellings may be differentiated by pupil ability and will be linked to the National Curriculum (English Appendix 1: Spelling), other words may be key vocabulary linked to topics.

Homework

Key Stage One

In Key Stage One, we would like children to focus on reading, learning spellings and activities that support work in Maths, such as learning number facts ($1+9=10$, $2+8=10$) or practising counting in multiples of 1, 2, 5 and 10.

Some homework may be set using Education City, My Maths and/or Bug Club (dependent on which sites each school subscribes to). Please see your child's class teacher for log in details to enable you to access these sites at home.

Key Stage Two

In addition to the spelling lists and reading expectation for KS2, homework for Mathematics and English may also be sent home each week:

Mathematics

- A set piece of work (paper or electronically) to be completed to support and extend in class learning. This should take **no longer than 30 minutes**. Children are encouraged to use My Maths and Education City (dependent on individual school subscriptions) to support/extend their learning.
- Multiplication tables should be practised regularly. The National Curriculum expectations are that by the end of Year 4, children should be able to recall all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12.

English

- English homework could perhaps include activities such as reading comprehension or will be related to class work in order to consolidate learning completed during the school day.

As children progress through KS2, homework will extend beyond English and Maths work and opportunities will be provided to extend knowledge and skills through independent learning projects. The duration of the time for this work to be completed will vary but will normally be spread over the course of a term with children completed chapters on a weekly basis – children should spend about **30 minutes** each week on this work. Children are encouraged to be as creative as possible with this work and to explore their own interests beyond what they learn in the classroom. School will invite parents in to celebrate this work at various points throughout the year.

Homework Club

If KS2 children are unable to complete homework at home, each school will hold a homework club one lunch time per week, when a member of staff will support the children completing their set tasks.

Concerns

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. Materials, such as the Maths Calculation Policy, Reading Lists and suggested questions to ask to support reading comprehension and inference, are also available on the school websites, should you wish to support your child at home.

If you have any concerns about the levels of homework, or the content, please see your child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about homework; if there is a problem, please do come into school to speak with the teacher about it.

Appendix 1

Please see below roles which support this policy.

Role of the School

- Monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy every two years, or on release of new guidance from the Government.
- Support parents with the newer methods of teaching in English and Mathematics by offering parent meetings to put into context the development of English and Mathematics skills from Reception through to Year 6.

Role of the Class Teacher

- Plan homework as an integral part of curriculum planning and indicate tasks on short term planning.
- Inform pupils and parents of homework timetables through discussion in class, at parents; evenings and through termly Curriculum newsletters.
- Match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children.
- Provide feedback which encourage pupils to regularly complete tasks.
- Feedback should be appropriate to the task e.g.
 - individual comment from the teacher, verbal or written, given within an acceptable timeframe
 - teacher supporting pupil self-marking
 - reading diary entry written by pupils or parents/carers
 - recognising homework achievements through assemblies
 - peer assessment

Role of the Parents/Carers

The school recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities. To avoid 'battles' over homework we recommend:-

- that children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace;
- acknowledgement should be given to their own interests;
- the task is undertaken at an appropriate time when your child is best able to concentrate;
- your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks;
- that work at home is perceived as a shared activity;
- work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes;
- it should not be used as a threat or punishment.

Your help, encouragement and praise are the keys to success. We ask you to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone, or more often for younger children, together with an adult. We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult. Give support and help but do not do the work for the children! Please support children in completing tasks and return work in a tidy and presentable state.