




GRANGE SCHOOL

*A Culture of Continuous
Improvement*

Homework Policy Primary School

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Homework Policy

The Primary School defines 'homework' widely to mean any work or activities which students are asked to do outside lesson time without the guidance of teachers. It is usually done with the support of Parents/Guardians and is an opportunity for adults, other than teachers, to become active partners in supporting learning.

The Primary School believes homework should be enjoyable material for the student, stimulate imagination and creativity, as well as reinforcing material taught in the lesson.

The Primary School believes that homework is a vital means of helping to raise student achievement and every student sees that the school and home are working together in a partnership, to provide support and encouragement. It also enables the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school days.

In addition, the Primary School believes homework should be an important tool in developing independent thought, self-direction and self-discipline. It can assist the student in developing good work habits and in the wise use of time.

GUIDELINES:

The Nature of the Homework;

- Homework should be assigned after introduction and thorough explanation of the skills necessary to successfully complete the assignment.
- Homework should be assigned in such a manner that it will be clearly understood by all students.
- A student's access to resource materials should be considered when issuing assignments.
- Excessive homework and the absence of homework, should be avoided.
- Homework should not be used for disciplinary purposes.
- The homework should be varied and fun so that it motivates and encourages enthusiasm in the children. It should stimulate their learning and foster different study skills.

The Reason or Purpose of the Homework;

- Homework should serve a valid purpose and be closely related to current classroom activities.

- Homework should develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, numerical skills and investigation skills task.
- Homework should provide a means for students:
 - To become independent and curious learners;
 - To develop good study habits;
 - To develop skills in personal organization and a sense of responsibility.

How to Issue and Record the Homework

- All homework is to be recorded in the Homework Diary (Planner) under the supervision of the class or subject teacher.
- All homework is to be uploaded on Google Classroom before 4.00pm each day, including Friday for homework to be done over the weekend.
- Details of the homework should be written on the board, well before the end of the lesson, to allow every student in the class time to write the details down.
- Class and Subject Teachers will check and sign homework diaries daily. Class Teachers and subject teachers will respond to any communication by parents.
- Students are required to have their homework diaries with them at all times.

Submission of Homework

- Submission dates for all homework must be clearly stated in the homework diaries and on Google Classroom
- Class and subject teachers have the responsibility to see that homework is completed within the time allocated.
- Teachers should seek to determine causes if a student regularly fails to complete assigned work. Teachers should not avoid giving homework because they believe students will not do the work.
- Whenever homework has not been completed the teacher must indicate this in the child's homework diary.
- Teacher must contact the Key Stage Coordinator if a student persistently fails to complete homework. The Key Stage Coordinator will contact the parent and also inform the Head of Learning & Teaching.

- In the case of persistent failure to submit homework, the Head of Learning & Teaching will inform the Head of Primary and a letter will be sent to the parents.

Evaluation of Homework

- Homework should be evaluated promptly and returned to the student. Appropriate rewards should be given to those students who successfully complete assigned work. Effort and competency should be recognised and rewarded.
- Homework also needs to be regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure that it is manageable by both student and teachers.
- Teachers and administrators should take appropriate steps to communicate with parents regarding the school's homework policy and to solicit their support.

Homework across the school

- Homework also needs to be specific and differentiated for students at different ages.
- Homework also needs to be appropriate for the level of ability at which the student is expected to be working.
- The recommended time to be spent on homework at different Key Stages is listed below:
 - In **Reception** the children are expected to have daily spelling in addition to their reading, as well as two pieces of Literacy and Numeracy homework per week. Time spent on homework in Reception should be between 20 and 30 minutes per day. Additional 20 to 30 minutes homework may be given on weekends.
 - In **Years 1 and 2**, the children are expected to have daily spelling and phonics in addition to their reading, as well as two pieces of Literacy and 2 pieces of Numeracy homework per week in Y1 and 3 pieces in Y2. Time spent on homework in Years 1 and 2 should be between 30 and 40 minutes per day. Additional 30 to 40 minutes homework may be given on weekends.
 - The **Year 3 and 4s** also have daily spellings, tables and reading, as well as three pieces of Literacy and Numeracy per week and one piece of homework in other subjects, with 2 pieces in Science. Time spent on homework in Years 3 and 4 should be between 40 and 50 minutes per day. Additional 40 to 50 minutes homework may be given on weekends.

- o The **Year 5 classes** also have daily spellings, tables and reading, as well as three pieces of Literacy and Numeracy per week and one piece of homework in other subjects, with 2 pieces in Science. Time spent on homework in Year 5 should be between 50 and 60 minutes per day.
Additional 50 to 60 minutes homework may be given on weekends.
- o The **Year 6 classes** also have daily spellings, tables and reading, as well as three pieces of Literacy and Numeracy per week and one piece of homework in other subjects, with 2 pieces for Science. Time spent on homework in year 6 should be between 70 and 80 minutes per day.
Additional 80 to 90 minutes homework may be given on weekends.

Differentiation

- Differentiation will exist for children depending on their own ability and this will present in all lessons. For children with special needs, homework should be linked to their IEP (Individual Educational Plan).

Expectations Regarding Homework

- Students to be offered a quiet space to complete their homework and pursue their independent learning;
- Work to be completed to a high standard of presentation that is legible - students will be asked to complete work again that is not up to standard, either at another time or possibly in retaining time/detentions.
- Praise and positive rewards to be used to encourage regular and successful commitment to homework.

Homework and Absenteeism

- Students are expected, wherever possible, to complete homework tasks set in their absence. On returning to school, the student and the parent should find out what tasks need to be completed and the due date for submission. If necessary the student and the parent should discuss with their teacher a later date for the work to be completed.

Parents and Guardians support of student's learning through homework

- Parents and Guardians play a very important role in the student's success. Parents and Guardians are required to:
- Make it clear to students how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- Praise and encourage students when they take pride in their homework;
- Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions, where students can concentrate. If this is difficult, Parents can contact staff for support;
- Encourage students of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible.
- To ensure consistency of allocation

"Homework- Statement of Intent"

All homework should be:

- An extension of the work done in class.
- A reinforcement of the work done in class.
- Research assignments to complement the work done in class.
- To prepare learners in the knowledge and the skills of test and exams.
- Revision -This should be specific rather than vague and directed towards specific topics and questions.
- The teacher must ensure that homework requires actual thinking, and that thinking skills are being developed rather than mere regurgitation.

All homework must be worthwhile and meaningful

The Homework Diary:

- Each student in the school will be issued with a school homework diary.
- All homework must be recorded in the homework diary.
- Parents must sign the homework diary on a daily basis in all Phases of the Primary School.
- The class teacher must sign the homework diary on a daily basis.
- All homework must be written up on the board and also uploaded on Google Classroom with dates for submission and expectations for completion clearly stated.

Scheduling of Homework:

- Schedules will be shared with parents and serve as a basic guideline and variations could occur either way i.e less or more time.
- In the core subjects, homework is given 3 times a week in the primary section.
- Reading homework is given every day and parents must do the reading with the child.
- In the foundation subjects homework is given once a week in the primary on the day the subject is attended in school.
- Homework may also be given in non-examination subjects over weekends.