

BILLINGHAY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
POLICY FOR HOMEWORK
November 2024

1. Introduction

- This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of homework given out in our school.
- The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher and all the teaching and non-teaching staff.

2. The main purposes of homework are:

- 1) To develop further an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school and strengthening the home school relationship.
- 2) To help parents/carers to understand more clearly what their children are learning in school.
- 3) To share with parents/carers the approaches and strategies used in school.
- 4) To give pupils the opportunity to practise and consolidate their learning, particularly in Literacy and Mathematics.
- 5) To encourage independent learning skills.
- 6) To help pupils to learn to plan the use of their time; to develop confidence and self-motivation.
- 7) To extend learning beyond the school environment.

The purposes and extent of homework change as pupils get older. For pupils in Foundation 2 (Reception) and Key Stage 1 developing a partnership with parents/carers and involving them actively in pupils' learning is a key purpose. As pupils get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning.

3. Implementation

The aims of implementing this policy are to:

- 1) Ensure homework contributes to the raising of attainment.
- 2) Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.
- 3) Encourage pupils to develop increasing independence and a sense of personal responsibility.
- 4) Meet the individual needs of pupils.
- 5) Incorporate pupils' individual learning targets.
- 6) Make expectations about homework clear to pupils, parents/carers.
- 7) Extend the opportunities provided for learning.
- 8) Improve the depth of understanding and the quality of the partnership between home and school.
- 9) Provide activities that encourage parents/carers to work with their children.

4. Range of homework activities

Maths

TT Rockstars. The expectation is children practise times tables 3 times a week as a minimum. Numbots is for Y1 and Y2.

Reading

Taekwondo Reading

This is a rewards-based system for reading at home, which results in children moving up coloured belts. Every Friday we will be checking reading records to total up the number of reads. If they have accumulated enough reads to earn their next belt they will be given that colour sticker to stick in the reading record and also will be given a raffle ticket for a chance to win a book voucher at the end of each term.

Year 1 and 2

- Sharing a book with an adult at home for 10 minutes or more counts as a read. This could be your school reading book, library book or a book from home.
- Practising your phonics book, or reading scheme book counts as another read (this can be read more than once to help build memory and fluency).

Year 3 and 4

- Reading a book with an adult at home for at least 15 minutes counts as a read. This could be your school reading book, library book or a book from home.
- An adult needs to make a note about what has happened in the pages you have read in your reading record and then sign it.
- If you are on AR, you can read to yourself but you must write a sentence about what has happened and an adult must sign for it to count as a read.
- Taking a quiz on your correct level and passing a quiz at 80% counts as a 2 read bonus.

Year 5 and 6

- Reading a book with an adult at home or reading to yourself for at least 20 minutes counts as a read. You could read your school reading book, library book or a book from home.
- You need to write a sentence about what you have just read, to show what it was about in a nutshell.
- And then an adult must sign your reading record book.
- Taking a quiz on your correct level and passing at 80% also counts as a 2 read bonus.
- Reading an author/ book from your reading passport also gives you a 2 read bonus.

Expectations per week as a minimum:

Y1/2 Three x 10 min reads in a week

Y 3/4 Four x 15 min reads in a week

Y 5/6 Four x 20 min reads in a week.

If pupil is on Accelerated Reader, they take a quiz as a minimum once every 2 weeks with the aim to get 80% correct as a minimum.

Red Arrows

Read 3 times a week as a minimum and have reading record book signed. Each time 5-10 mins.

Home learning is set on a Friday and runs through to the following Friday. Sounds of the week and focus words will be sent home as well as other challenges from different areas of learning. Reading expectations are also set in each home learning post too.

We allow our families to record their home learning informally and creatively. Some choose to write their homework in a notebook whilst others might go on a sound hunt around the village or practice writing in flour. Some upload photos of their home learning which we actively encourage and praise but it's not something that is enforced.

5. Rewards and Sanctions

Homework that is completed well and on time is acknowledged and praised in accordance with the relevant section of the School Behaviour Policy linked to positive consequences.

The Department for Education state that homework is part and parcel of a good education. Although there is no statutory requirement for schools to set homework we as a school will enforce it through our Homework Policy. To this end if homework is not handed in on time (without a valid written or verbal reason from the parent/carer) or the class teacher feels that there are issues with the quality or quantity of homework produced they will:

- Sanctions will be imposed by the class teacher in line with the school Behaviour Policy and are at the discretion of the Class Teacher. They include: warnings, loss of dojos, completing homework at break and/or lunch times.
- Contact the child's parents/carers to discuss the matter via phone, letter or email if this is a regular occurrence.

Our expectations are that all homework will be completed on time with each child illustrating that they have put in the right amount of time and effort. Parents/Carers can input into this but ultimately whether this has been met will be at the discretion of the Class Teacher (taking into account any parental comments).

6. Marking

Homework will be marked in accordance with the whole school policy on marking and feedback, with a view to continuing to raise attainment. Children will also self mark in class.

7. Feedback

Reading diaries are used as a form of communication between home and school. Communication can also be via Class Dojo or Arbor.

8. Special Educational Needs

Throughout the school the planning of homework tasks will take into account the needs of pupils with special educational needs. Careful planning will ensure that the level of demand is appropriate for each pupil and that guidance to parents/carers is clear.

Each class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parents/carers.

9. The role of parents/carers

The support of parents/carers is crucial to the success of homework. They can support their children by:

- providing a suitably quiet place in which children can do their homework;
- making it clear to their children that they value homework;
- encouraging children and praising them when they have completed homework;
- joining in with the homework of younger children.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed in T1 2025.