



## **JUNIOR SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **Ethos**

Research shows that a strong triangular relationship between parents, school and pupils results in more effective learning. We see homework as an important part of the home school partnership that we value so highly. By working with parents to explain our ethos, make expectations clear and establish effective routines we can strengthen this relationship and help parents become actively involved in their sons' education.

### **Aims and objectives**

Through this policy the aim is to:

- provide a consistent approach to homework across the school and across year groups;
- provide appropriate homework to meet the needs of our pupils;
- provide homework which reinforces and enriches classroom work, or prepares pupils for future learning;
- ensure that homework is marked and pupils are given positive feedback;
- foster positive attitudes towards independent learning;
- encourage pupils to develop good work habits and discipline for future life;
- prepare pupils for their next stage of learning;
- promote the partnership between home and school;

### **The purpose of homework**

The purpose of homework is to support pupils in their aim to achieve the highest possible standards. The School believes that homework is one of the main ways in which pupils can develop independence in their learning. However parents also play an important role and are asked to show an interest and provide support. Homework should be completed within reasonable time parameters, according to year group. However, the school accepts that some pupils will have a desire to take their learning further in certain curriculum areas and at certain points in their academic careers. Such independent research is encouraged and celebrated.

### **Homework Content**

Homework is set every night, but its focus shifts as pupils progress through the school. There is an emphasis on Maths and English in all year groups. Boys in Year 3 and 4 are given topic homework once a week and this may involve research or other open ended tasks. Homework in the Humanities, and Science will also be set regularly in Years 5 and 6. All pupils have a short French homework once a week. At times older pupils may be given several evenings to complete lengthier projects. Homework expectations for each year group are communicated to parents through the Curriculum Handbook, a timetable in the Prep Diary and are explained in detail at the Curriculum and Social

evenings at the beginning of each academic year. The timings below are approximate as some children will complete tasks more quickly than others.

### **Year 3 and 4 (approximately 30 minutes each day)**

- reading on a daily basis
- reading with, or sharing a book with an adult regularly
- learning weekly spellings and completing spelling folder tasks
- 20 minutes of written homework

### **Years 5 and 6 (approximately 45 minutes each day)**

- reading on a daily basis
- reading with, or sharing text with an adult periodically
- learning weekly spellings and completing spelling folder tasks
- 30-40 minutes of subject homework
- Year 6 can expect to have a little homework in the Michaelmas Term in preparation for the 11+, in the core subjects.

### **Recording of Homework**

All pupils are all provided with a homework diary at the beginning of the year. Pupils are given homework instructions which they write down in their homework diaries each day. Parents are asked to sign the book daily and comment on the homework, if they wish. Form Tutors are responsible for checking that pupils use the Prep Diary properly, write down their homework daily and that parents sign it regularly.

### **The home school partnership**

Expectations and responsibilities

Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities which pupils are asked to complete outside lessons, generally on their own, occasionally with their parents or carers. The School believes that homework makes the greatest contribution to learning when pupils and parents/carers are clear about expectations.

Teachers are expected to:

- set tasks appropriate to the needs and abilities of the pupils
- plan tasks which support or enrich classroom learning.
- provide sufficient information so that pupils and parents/carers know what is required and the timescale involved.
- monitor reading records and spelling homework as appropriate
- mark homework and give feedback as appropriate
- celebrate effort and achievement in homework tasks through the rewards system

Form Tutors are expected to:

- sign homework diaries on a weekly basis
- contact parents where any problems with homework arise

Pupils are expected to:

- listen carefully to instructions given about homework and fill in their homework diaries accordingly
- hand in their homework diaries every day
- complete their homework to the best of their ability
- take pride in the work they complete

- hand their homework in on time

Parents are asked to:

- provide a suitable environment for pupils to work
- ensure that sufficient time is set aside to complete homework
- provide the necessary equipment
- take an active interest in the work to support, the child's learning, whilst ensuring that in the main it is the child's work.
- support reading development by listening to their sons read, sharing and discussing books with them
- Help their sons with organisation to ensure work is completed and handed in on time
- sign homework diaries and record the length of time taken to complete homework on a daily basis
- put a brief note in the homework diary, explaining why homework has not been completed, where this is occasionally unavoidable.
- feedback to teachers about any problems via the homework diary or email
- sign reading records regularly, as agreed with Form Tutors

### **Illness**

When pupils are ill, for a short time they may be asked to catch up on work missed, particularly in the core subjects. This is at the discretion of the teacher and will depend on the nature of the activity and the length of absence. If a child suffers from a lengthy or ongoing illness the school will work with parents to make arrangements to support the child's learning, as far as possible.

### **Unsatisfactory homework**

If a child's homework is deemed unsatisfactory or he fails to complete it, without a good reason, he may be asked to complete the homework at a convenient break time or complete it at home. Where it is felt that a poor attitude is the reason older pupils can be placed in detention to complete the homework. Where this happens more than once parents will generally be contacted and an action plan formulated.

### **Holiday Homework**

Holiday homework is set for Year 6 over the October half term and Christmas Holidays, in preparation for their 11+ examinations. Otherwise, homework is not routinely set over a holiday period. However, there may be occasions where pupils are required to complete an enrichment project or House activity over the course of a school holiday. Where this is the case, the project is generally open ended enough that pupils may choose how long to spend over it. Parents and carers are asked to encourage their children to read over holidays. All boys go to the Junior School library at the end of each half term to choose books to read over the holidays from the extensive selection available.

### **Provision at school**

Homework club is offered daily from 4.00 -5.p.m. at school. This is run by after school care staff, in Junior School classrooms. These sessions are for homework only and a quiet environment is maintained. Pupils are expected to complete their homework independently, although some help is given by the member of staff running homework club or boys from the Senior School who come to help. Where needed boys may borrow the Chromebooks to complete homework. Parents are still

Revised July 2017

To be reviewed July 2019

asked to ensure that homework has been completed and sign the homework diary accordingly, once their sons are at home. Parents of boys in Year 3 are also asked to read at home with their sons daily, even when they have attended homework club, and parents of all boys are asked to ensure their sons read daily.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Teachers monitor the quality of the work completed for homework, analyse parental and pupil feedback and may adjust the nature and timing of tasks set accordingly. The home school partnership is considered fundamental to the success of homework. Dialogue is encouraged and homework will be discussed at Parent Consultations. Parents are always welcome to make an appointment at other times to discuss their son's homework with the relevant member of staff.