

Heckington St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School Draft Homework Policy



Data collected from parents indicates that a consistent approach to homework is required. The school is of the opinion that homework is important since it reinforces and extends the teaching and learning that occurs during the day. Homework encourages parental involvement in children's learning and helps to develop independence.

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Heckington St. Andrew's we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Our aims of providing homework are to:

- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and an individual responsibility
- Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account
- Ensure that parents/carers understand our expectations of them
- Improve the quality of learning experiences offered to the children
- Extend and support learning
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership
- Inform parents about work going on in class
- Provide opportunities for children and parents to share learning experiences
- Give children the opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts,
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- Prepare Year Six children for the secondary phase of education

Homework at our School

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, St. Andrew's is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are

happy to give advice. Children should be encouraged to discuss any problems they are having with their teacher. It is not acceptable for children to struggle excessively, causing upset at home. Obtaining parental support is of paramount importance to us.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves. A homework club will be provided if needed for children who wish to do some of their homework at school and support will be provided. One day's leeway will be given regarding the deadline for handing in work. Unfinished or missing work will need to be completed during lunchtimes. If a child consistently does not complete their homework, concerns will be discussed with parents.

Our routines and expectations

All classes give out weekly homework on a Thursday. If it is a piece that needs handing in, it is expected to be returned by the following Tuesday.

The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or a maths games already familiar to your child and it may not necessarily be written work. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. However, they may, where appropriate, be asked to find out something new.

There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

Each child has a homework book and folder and the majority of tasks are kept in there. Work that needs marking (and is not feeding into other classwork) will be returned to the folder. This should happen each week. Children are entitled to have any set homework marked and commented upon as appropriate if it is handed in on time.

Homework will increase as a child gets older and, broadly speaking, these are current expectations:

Reception:	daily reading, learning key words and phonics activities.
Years 1 and 2:	daily reading, weekly homework that alternates between maths and English/topic.
Years 3 and 4:	daily reading, weekly times tables, spellings and a longer weekly task alternating between English/topic and maths
Years 5 and 6:	daily reading, weekly times tables, spellings and 2 longer tasks each week - English/topic and maths. Occasionally extended projects running for a few weeks will be set.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen.

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or the Head teacher.

Drafted By: J Bentley

Approved by the Governing Body:

This policy was reviewed:

Next Review Due: