



## **Bexton Primary School Homework Policy**

**Name of school: Bexton Primary School**

**Date of policy: September 2016**

**Review date: September 2018**

**Headteacher: Mrs Emily Armstrong**

### **Introduction**

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. Homework activities include non-academic as well as academic activities that help children to develop as rounded human beings. Bexton Primary School values the learning experiences provided by parents and carers outside the school.

### **Aims and Objectives of Homework**

- To reinforce/ consolidate/ practise aspects of learning, sometimes tailored to individual needs
- To support communication between home and school, engaging parents in what their child is learning at the moment
- To enable parents to work with the school to help their child
- To promote a shared message of high expectations from school and from home
- To enable children to prepare for / research a topic related to their learning in school
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- To promote life skills of independence and organisation of time and resources, preparing children for further education and life beyond school
- To encourage parents to take an active part in supporting their children's learning
- To extend children's learning
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school
- To exploit the resources of the home setting to enhance learning opportunities
- To help children develop good work habits

## **A balanced approach**

Although homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment, we acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

## **The role of parents**

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home/learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents to check the home/school diary and to sign it at least weekly

If parents have any problems or questions about homework tasks, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the key stage manager/ deputy head. If parents wish to make a complaint about the school 'Homework Policy' or the way it is implemented, parents should follow the school's Complaints Procedure.

## **What homework do we set?**

For all year groups from Year 1 (timings will increase as children progress through the school)

-Daily reading (or as often as possible) – little and often 10 minutes at KS1 extending to 15-20 by end of KS2 and for fluent readers discussion about their reading / sharing books with adults as appropriate

-All year groups will have English and maths tasks set on an alternative weekly basis. These will always be set on a Thursday and returned on a Tuesday

-Children will be set spellings on a weekly basis based on a spelling rule taught in class that week

-Extra interventions will be set for children on an individual basis by teachers if / when appropriate and additional tasks maybe set to support these

-All children are issued with a home school diary where children are encouraged to write in what they are reading. Parents and teachers are invited to make any relevant comments and to use the diary as a form of home / school communication

-We set homework tasks for all children as a normal part of school life. We aim that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. If parents have any concerns about this they should discuss this with the class teacher

-Children in EYFS have weekly homework tasks and communication is sent to parents on a weekly basis

## **Framework**

- The class teacher is responsible for setting homework activities, ensuring that demands are manageable and conform to the school's guidance on the recommended amount and type of work provided
- Tasks to do at home will be related to the topics being studied by the children in maths, English or occasionally topic work
- Parents will be informed by class teachers about the homework timetables as part of the 'Welcome to the year group leaflet' that is held each autumn term
- Teachers will clearly communicate with parents in the home/school diary each week. They will inform parents what has been taught and the requirements of the homework task
- Work set will be marked and feedback will be given (comments may be written or verbal).
- The school will monitor the effectiveness and quality of the homework tasks
- Children will be encouraged to develop good presentation skills and to care for resources, materials and equipment.

## **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school Homework Policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. We encourage all parents to complete annual questionnaires and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

Head Teacher: Emily Armstrong