



PARC EGLOS SCHOOL
A POLICY FOR HOMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

This homework policy has been drawn up after consultation with parents, children and staff.

There are very strong and opposing views on homework and this policy aims to reach a level and amount of homework that will be acceptable to all.

Homework is defined as any work or activities undertaken by pupils outside school hours either on their own, or with parents, carers or other adults. This is not only extra work sent home from school but extra curricular clubs at school or out of school, music lessons, sports clubs, Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs etc. Also trips out or time spent reading or playing with children are a most valuable form of 'homework'.

This policy deals specifically with work sent home from school.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

We believe that homework:

- Develops an effective partnership between school and parents/carers.
- Consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding.
- Can extend school learning and improve pupil attainment.
- Shows that learning takes place in situations and locations other than school.
- Enables pupils to develop independent learning.
- Encourages self discipline, self motivation and perseverance.
- Helps pupils to improve their organisational skills.
- Improves pupils' ability to manage time.
- Provides educational experiences not possible in school.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

We set a variety of homework activities.

In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit and enjoyment from this time spent reading with their child. Years 1 and 2 children may also be asked to learn spellings or solve simple mathematical problems as part of their homework. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school or to bring in information or artefacts relating to a topic.

In Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above but we expect them to do more tasks independently. Literacy and Numeracy homework (which may include activities such as learning times tables, spellings or completing Reading Records) is sent home routinely and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home.

AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school.

Key Stage 1 children should do **no more** than an hour a week; this includes reading at home with a parent.

Children in Years 3 and 4 should spend **no more** than 20 minutes a night on homework set by school.

In Years 5 and 6 children should spend **no more** than half an hour a night on homework set by school.

These figures are average figures over a week and are in line with the DfES guidelines. Teachers may not choose to set this amount as it is a maximum guidelines.

All children have some form of homework/reading diary which can be used as a form of communication between home and school.

PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Homework is set for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we refer to the Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is a part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks set to the best of their ability. If a child is struggling, feeling stressed or is spending more than the suggested time on a particular task, they should be praised for their efforts and a note written in the homework diary explaining why a task is not completed. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit a library, by discussing the work that their child is doing and by helping their child as they feel necessary.

Parents are asked to check homework/reading diaries regularly and to sign it as/if requested.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, 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 Head Teacher.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the staff and governing body to agree, review and monitor the school homework policy. Parents and children will be asked for their concerns and opinions before any review.

Reviewed and approved

By Chair of Governors – Stewart Patteron