



Baston Church of England Primary School Homework Policy

Introduction

We believe that properly designed homework can impact positively on a child's education. Through this policy we aim to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school by outlining the purpose, types and amount of homework set. We recognise that the purpose of homework may change as pupils progress on their journey through the school and that the needs of individual pupils should be taken into account. We feel strongly that while the homework we provide can contribute to raising attainment, it should not prevent a child from taking part in a wide range of after school clubs and activities, which greatly enhance the wider experiences and social skills of all children. We therefore believe that homework should be restricted to Monday-Friday so that every child has the freedom to pursue other family activities and hobbies at the weekend without restriction.

We believe that a well-managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. As a staff, we give careful consideration to making homework age-appropriate and well-balanced across the school. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.

Definition of Homework

Homework is learning that will help with schoolwork. It can therefore be defined as work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.

We believe homework works best when:

- ✓ Children and parents/carers are very clear about what they need to do
- ✓ Tasks are carefully planned and matched to pupils *independent* ability
- ✓ There is a regular programme so that everyone knows what is expected and by when
- ✓ Children receive prompt, clear feedback on their work
- ✓ Parents and carers are treated as partners in their child's learning
- ✓ An appropriate amount of homework is achievable by *all* pupils

The Purpose of Homework

We set homework because:

- ✓ It helps to develop an effective partnership between parents/carers and school
- ✓ It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding. It allows for creativity and shared project-building
- ✓ It extends school learning
- ✓ It is a way of using resources for learning - of all kinds - at home
- ✓ It encourages the development of confidence, self-discipline and the organisational skill pupils need to study on their own
- ✓ It prepares children for the self-study requirements of secondary school and beyond

Type of Homework

The main focuses of homework at Baston CE Primary School are: reading, maths and 'My Choice'.

Homework will not just mean English and Maths based formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. My Choice tasks will also be set, which will involve parents/carers in joint activities, as this is most valuable in promoting children's learning.

Monitoring Homework

Class teachers and members of the Senior Leadership Team will ensure that homework is carefully planned as part of the curriculum and set in accordance with school policy. Class teachers will be responsible for setting, collecting and marking homework for their own class.

Timetable for Homework

The precise amount of time spent on homework is of less importance than the quality of the tasks set. We understand that not all families are able to designate a specific amount of time to homework due to work and other various commitments. We also fully appreciate the rich and varied 'after-school lives' our children lead and we value the importance of their commitment to such activities. As such, we set activities which children will always be able to complete independently and that require only a short amount of time each week. How families choose to organise time to complete the homework tasks is left to the discretion of parents/carers.

Homework Overview for Early Years Foundation Stage

Each child will be given an independent reading book which has been allocated by the class teacher based on their on-going reading assessment. Children may also take home a book he/she has chosen 'for the love of reading' if requested. We ask that parents/carers encourage their child to engage in reading for approximately 10 - 15 minutes every evening.

Each child will take home a 'phonics pack', which is made up of a series of letter sounds/green words and red words. It is expected that each child will learn them at their own pace. Learnt sounds and words are then stuck into a specific word book which can be reread at any time.

In addition to this, every fortnight, your child will bring home a 'My Choice' task, which is a more thematic/project-based activity linked to themes covered in class. This task can be completed in any way you and your child choose – it may be collage, IT-based, photographic, art and craft etc. We ask that parents work with the child to complete this homework by supporting them verbally where necessary.

Homework Overview for KS 1 & 2

- In KS1 each child will be given an independent reading book which has been allocated by the class teacher based on on-going reading assessment.
- In KS2 children will be expected to choose a book 'for the love of reading'. We ask that parents/carers encourage their child to engage in reading for approximately 10 - 15 minutes every evening.
- Every fortnight, your child will bring home a 'My Choice' task, which is a more thematic/project-based activity linked to themes covered in class. This task can be completed in any way you and your child choose – it may be collage, IT-based, photographic, art and craft etc.
- Each week your child will be allocated MyMaths, which is an electronic programme. Maths homework will be differentiated accordingly but this is only meant to be reinforcement and/or extension of any class based activity and should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete.

- If there are any resources that you do not have at home (pencils, ruler, plain paper, internet access etc) please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.
- We do our best to prepare all children for secondary education by sticking to set deadlines. If homework is regularly late or not handed in, your child will be asked to complete the set work during a lunchtime break under adult supervision.

The Role of Parents/Carers

The support of parents and carers is vital for this policy to be successfully implemented. As a child moves through the school the type of homework he/she receives is likely to change and therefore the role of the parents/carers may also alter slightly.

In general, it is our hope that parents/carers will:

- ✓ Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can complete homework alone or with the help of an adult
- ✓ Make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- ✓ Ensure homework is completed on time Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework
- ✓ Become actively involved in joint 'My Choice' homework activities

Special Needs

Whilst it is important that children with a special need do as much in common with other children in the class, there may be occasions when it is more appropriate to complete work which addresses individual needs. Wherever possible these will be linked to individual targets and will give plenty of opportunity for pupils to succeed.

We look forward to working with you and thank you for your continued support