

Dunchurch Boughton C of E Junior School

Homework Policy

School Aim Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level.

The Christian faith and its practical expression, form a major part of the whole school ethos. The school aims to give children both knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith while respecting and understanding other religions and cultures.

The school aims to:-

- Ensure that children receive their entitlement to a broad, balanced National Curriculum, encouraging them to have high expectations in all areas of the curriculum and to reach their full potential.
- Provide a secure and relaxed environment in which the children are encouraged to have a healthy lifestyle, to be tolerant and to grow in confidence and self esteem.
- Ensure that children develop an open and enquiring mind and are encouraged to be creative, imaginative and inventive.
- Work in partnership with parents and the wider community.

Policy

This policy was developed by Andy Wardle, Headteacher.

How: Discussion and approval from the whole staff, 2006.

Reviewed by Governors: November 1999, 2003, 2006.

To be reviewed: November 2009.

Objectives

At Dunchurch Junior School we believe that homework can contribute towards:

- Developing an effective partnership between home and school.
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in Numeracy and literacy.
- Encouraging children to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own.

Aims

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure the needs of the individual child are taken into account.
- Ensure parents have a clear understanding about criteria for themselves and their child.
- Provide opportunities for children and parents to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- Encourage children to develop long-term strategies for working.

Homework is useful for a number of reasons:

- Further extend work at different levels.
- Provide special interest or enthusiasms beyond the classroom.
- Help children who encounter difficulties by providing them with the further practice in specific areas.

Organisation

Homework is intended to enhance school-based learning, not to act as a hindrance or obstruction to out of school activities. In order to encourage children to follow their interests out of school we aim to provide a timetable for regular homework allowing sufficient time for completion of the task.

Areas for further study are detailed in the termly curriculum summary sheets.

In line with DFES recommendations we believe that:

- Children in years 3 and 4 should spend up to 1.5 hours per week, mainly focused on literacy and Numeracy
- Children in years 5 and 6 should spend up to 2.5 hours per week including greater curriculum breadth.

Parents and homework

Parents can help their child with homework by:

- Completing their child's reading diary after completing the work.
- Discuss what has to be done and when it has to be finished.
- Encourage their child to stick to the time allocated for homework.
- Be a partner in learning. Read together or discuss what has been read.
- Encourage their child to explain what it is they have to do and how they will tackle it.
- Help them, but don't do it for them.
- Ensure their child has all the equipment they need.

If there is a problem

There is life beyond school and homework! There will be an expectation that homework will be done but we recognise that circumstances will at times make it impossible. Parents should notify their child's teacher if difficulties arise with homework.

Race Equality

Due regard will be made to the Race Equality policy.

ECM outcomes

This policy contributes to the achievement of ECM outcome 2 Enjoy and achieve through promoting and detailing arrangements for homework.

Guidance on Homework

Maths homework

1. Set each week on the same night.
2. To last for 30 minutes.
3. Ideally an opportunity to practice mental skills previously taught and to consolidate maths skills taught during the current week.
4. To help with homework, each parent to be offered a copy of School maths calculation policy at autumn parent consultation.

Spellings homework

1. Learning of spellings to be typically 15 minutes per week.
2. Spellings given out on a specified day.
3. Guidance on how to learn spellings should be given to parents each autumn.

Reading homework

1. 15 minutes each night for 3 nights.
2. Parents are to record reading in reading record.
3. An explanation should be given to parents each autumn on how reading homework works.

“As part of the school’s approach to the teaching of reading, parents are asked to hear their child read for 15 minutes, three times a week. The books which your child will bring home are from the school reading scheme. This scheme is also used in school for giving reading practice to children needing support”.

The school teaches reading mainly through regular guided reading sessions and the daily literacy hour.

Children may be removed from the School reading scheme and termed Independent readers if books are deemed inappropriate for their age.

4. Teachers should arrange for reading records to be checked frequently to ensure regular reading at home is taking place and to respond to comments from parents.
5. More able readers should be directed to read from a range of genre.

Projects Year 5 and 6

1. Each project to consist of 6 hours work (approximately 1 hour per week)
2. Projects to have criteria for marking when issued.
3. A range of ways to respond can be appropriate e.g. art, model, written, presentation.

Homework schedule to be printed on the newsletter each week.

Further Study

Areas for possible further study are detailed in the termly curriculum summary sheets.