

Thornley Primary School



Homework Policy

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Thornley Primary School



Homework Policy

1. Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day. It should contribute to their learning and respond to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

2. Rationale for Homework

At Thornley, we believe that children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn not just at school, but at home. We see homework as being an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of the school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one way in which our pupils can acquire the skill of independent learning.

While we emphasise the value of homework, and the positive role it plays in helping to raise a child's level of attainment, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. We believe that while homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in a wide range of out-of-school activities.

We are aware that pupils spend more time at home than at school and that they will develop their skills, interests and talents to full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

3. Aims and Objectives of Homework

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- To help pupils develop the skills of independent learners
- To promote partnership between home and school in supporting children's learning
- To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and allow children to practice skills taught in lessons
- To help children develop good habits for the future

4. Types of Homework

We set a variety of homework activities:

In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1, we encourage children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from the time spent reading with their child.

We may ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings or mathematical facts (number bonds or simple multiplication tables).

Sometimes we ask children to investigate their key task work further at home.

Sometimes, we ask children to find and collect things then we use them in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school if we believe that they would benefit from spending more time on it. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the school; the local library; the internet and books.

At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above, but we expect them to complete more tasks independently. We set them a range of weekly literacy and numeracy homework routinely every week and we expect them to consolidate learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping our children to revise for tests as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

In upper Key Stage 2 we set pupils a wide range of weekly homework tasks which focus on art, literacy, maths, spellings and a range of skills and topics. Pupils in upper Key Stage 2 are encouraged to complete tasks to a deadline and take ownership for their learning by deciding on the depth of their study.

Further information regarding homework and homework deadlines are provided on our school website under the relevant class heading.

4. Homework – accountability

Teachers keep class record of completed homework. Pupils are accountable for handing in their homework and those who repeatedly miss homework deadlines are supported in completing tasks using school resources. We use the school reward system to recognise completed homework.

Policy agreed at a governing body meeting on _____

Signed (on behalf of the governing body) _____