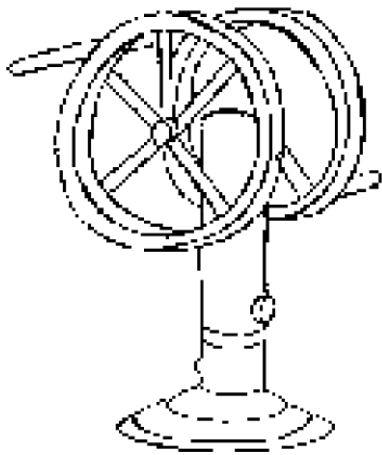


Ballydown Primary School

Homework Policy



Introduction

This policy represents the agreed procedures for the provision of Homework within Ballydown Primary School. This policy has been reviewed by parents, pupils and teachers in October/November 2014 and agreed and passed by the Board of Governors. The review confirmed parents' and pupils' overwhelming support of the school's homework routine and format.

Rationale for Homework

It is the policy of Ballydown Primary School that all pupils should receive homework commensurate with their age and ability because:

- It is useful in consolidating and extending the work done in the classroom.
- It strengthens the educational partnership between parents and teachers.
- It provides parents with an opportunity to share and support their child's learning.
- It provides a means by which parents can monitor their child's progress
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- It encourages self-discipline and progress towards becoming more independent learners.

Aims of policy

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework

The role of the school

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To monitor and review homework practice and policy taking into account opinions of stakeholders
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.

Role of the teacher

- To inform parents of homework expectations during September's Parent Meeting or in written form
- To set homework that is appropriate to the aptitude and age of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

Role of Parents

- To support the school by ensuring that his/her child attempts the homework
- To become actively involved and support their child e.g listen to and discuss reading, ensure spellings and mental activities completed and ensure neatness and completion
- To sign the homework as an indication that the parent is happy with their child's effort
- To provide a written explanation if child is unable to complete a homework. Note that non completion of a homework without a written explanation is not acceptable
- Inform the teacher if your child is having regular difficulty with homeworks set or is requiring to take too long.

Role of the Pupil

- To ensure they understand their homework e.g by copying homework down accurately
- To ensure they have taken home all the necessary books etc to complete homework
- To complete homework to the best of their ability
- To hand in homework on time

Failure to hand in homework

From time to time children may, for genuine reasons, forget to bring in their homework. In such circumstances, children will be asked to bring in the homework the following day.

Parents of persistent offenders will be informed in writing.

Continued failure to hand in homework will result in children being asked to complete it during break/lunch.

Failure to complete homework satisfactorily

All children are expected to complete home works to the best of their ability. Failure to do so will result in being asked to either repeat homework at home or during break/lunch.

Pupils who are absent

Generally home works will not be sent home to children who are absent. However, if parents so request, homeworks can be sent home with siblings, neighbours, friends or collected.

Frequency of Homework

Home Learning Tasks (P1-P3) or written homework (P4-P7) are normally given Monday to Wednesday each week. Thursday night is revision of the week's word building/spellings and preparation for Friday Round Up.

No written homework is given over the weekend

Time allocated to homework

It is difficult to provide an accurate time but P3 should take approximately 30 minutes and P5 - P7 50 minutes to an hour. This includes reading, spellings and written homework.

	How Homework is recorded.	What is covered in homeworks	What is required	Homework progression.
P1	Children have a Home Learning Folder which informs parents of the Topic for the Week e.g Vehicles /Hands	A Home Learning Sheet provides Literacy/Reading and Numeracy activities and often there is reference to the World Around Us e.g Winter Weather or Personal Development e.g practice putting on shoes on the correct feet!	Often the Home Learning sheet will ask parents to send in various things to support the learning activities in class - e.g scrap material, Autumn leaves, books about bears.	In the first term Home Learning consists mainly of practical activities and reading. In the second and third terms written home works are introduced.

P2	<p>Children have a Home Learning sheet which explains your homeworks from Monday - Thursday</p>	<p>The Home Learning Sheet provides Literacy/Reading and Numeracy activities and often there is reference to the World Around Us or Personal Development e.g for the child to practice zipping his/her coat Reading and word building/spellings are given nightly. Thursday night is usually set aside for revision of the week's word building/spellings and preparation for Friday Round Up</p>	<p>Often the sheet reminds parents to send in an athletics kit, to label belongings and return certain forms etc.</p> <p>The Home Learning sheet may ask parents to send in various things to support the learning activities in class.</p>	<p>In the first term Home Learning consists mainly of practical activities and reading.</p> <p>In the second and third terms written homeworks are also given.</p>
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P3	<p>In the first term in Primary 3 a Home Learning sheet covers homeworks for Monday to Wednesday.</p>	<p>Home Learning tasks are given Monday to Wednesday. They cover aspects of Literacy, Numeracy and the World Around Us. Thursday night is set aside for revision of number facts/spellings with no written homework being given on Thursday.</p> <p>Reading, spelling and number facts are given nightly.</p>	<p>It is requested that parents sign the homeworks.</p>	<p>More formal written homeworks begin in the second term. Children will complete Numeracy /Literacy homework sheets and keep these in separate folders.</p>
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P4 - P7	Children record homeworks in a Homework Diary.	Written homeworks are given on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - covering Literacy, Numeracy and the World Around Us. Thursday night is set aside for revision of tables/spellings with no written homework being given Reading, spelling and tables are given nightly.	It is requested that parents sign homeworks	There is an expectation that all homeworks are completed with attention being given to presentation and hand writing.
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Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to ensure that the policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning, the provision of homework will be regularly monitored.

A sample of Home School Learning Diaries and planned activities will be reviewed bi-annually as part of the school's self-evaluation process.

Homework practice and procedures were evaluated (parents and children completed questionnaires in October/November 2014 during parent/teacher consultations.

Parent Questionnaire