# F:\Harrowbarrow-Logo-Blue-LowRes.jpgHARROWBARROW SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Legal Framework

The DfE’s statutory document ‘Teachers’ Standards for use in schools in England’ released in September 2011, updated in June 2013, defines the minimum level of practice expected of teachers. Standard 4, which sets the expectation for teachers to ‘plan and teach well-structured lessons’, states that teachers should ‘set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired’.

Aims

The aim of the Harrowbarrow School Homework Policy is to:

* enable pupils to understand that independent learning is vital to achieving success.
* give every pupil the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
* encourage responsibility for learning within each pupil.
* regularly share the learning journey of individual pupils with their parents/carers.

Purpose

There are various reasons for setting homework, examples of which are:

* to encourage and develop self-discipline, study habits and a range of skills in planning and organising time.
* to reinforce, extend and consolidate work done in class.
* to give pupils experience of working on their own, and to develop in pupils a sense of responsibility and commitment to their own learning.
* to involve parents/carers as partners in education.
* to further challenge and extend gifted and talented children.
* to provide focused and sustained support for less able pupils.

The role of pupils

We expect all pupils to take responsibility, regardless of age, for completing homework in a timely manner and to a standard which reflects their ability. It is important, from a young age, that children take responsibility for their learning and aspire to further their learning outside of the classroom.

The role of parents/carers

We expect parents/carers to support all their children’s learning. This includes interacting with their children to identify what homework they have and then support them to complete homework by set deadlines. We ask parents to provide feedback on homework so that staff can differentiate future activities accordingly e.g. using the home/school reading liaison book to comment on the child’s reading and comprehension of their book.

The role of staff

We expect teachers to set homework appropriate to the age and ability level of the pupils. This should be timetabled and adhered to throughout the year. Where required, homework should be marked and feedback provided to both the pupil and their parents/carers. Teachers should ensure enough guidance is provided to parents/carers to enable them to support their children in completing homework e.g. using the class web page to provide regular information about homework activities.

Provision

When children first start school in reception, homework helps to establish the school and parent/carer partnership in support of children’s learning. It builds a learning relationship between parents/carers and their children, which values education and builds aspiration. By Y6, homework activities will help prepare pupils for transition to secondary education by encouraging self-discipline and providing a framework for independent learning. At each stage, homework will consolidate new learning, cement core skills or encourage enquiry through creative or investigative approaches.

Current provision:

YR – Daily reading at home (5 x per week)

Weekly High Frequency Word cards to read

Weekly letter formation practice linked to recent phonic teaching

In addition, parents are asked to contribute examples of pupil achievement from outside of school through the ‘Wow’ system e.g. some writing. This can be used as evidence of pupil progress in their Learning Journeys

Y1/2 – Daily reading at home (5 x per week)

Weekly High Frequency Word cards to read

Weekly spellings to learn

An alternate weekly maths/literacy task

Y3/4 – Daily reading at home (5 x per week)

Weekly times tables to learn

Weekly spellings to learn

An alternate weekly maths/literacy task

Y5/6 – Daily reading at home (5 x per week)

Fortnightly spellings to learn

Weekly mental maths/times tables practice

An alternate weekly maths//literacy task

*Optional weekly science task*

*In the build up to the Y6 SATs in May, some children will be asked undertake questions from past papers in order to familiarise them with the format of the test.*

Occasionally, pupils are asked to do a one off homework task, which might be used as a precursor to the start of a new topic over a holiday period. Many pupils like to bring in self-initiated pieces of work, where they have furthered their interest in a subject outside of school. We endeavour to share and celebrate these moments as they help foster the enquiring minds we believe are integral to successful learning.

Failure to complete homework

Failure to complete homework will compromise the progress of pupils in comparison to their peers. From YR to Y4 teachers will liaise with parents/carers to establish the reason why homework has not been completed. If possible, the school will offer support where circumstances are beyond the parent/carer’s control. By Y5/6, where the expectation is that pupils will undertake homework in their own time, they will complete homework during their free time at school if it has not been done at home in the allotted time. The teacher will continue to liaise with parents.

Pupil Premium Funding

The school currently uses Pupil Premium Funding to run an after school homework club for target children. This provides professional support, enabling children to complete their homework in an environment that gives them best possible opportunity to succeed in the tasks set. The school will identify the children to be invited and liaise with the parents to explain the rationale for their child being selected.

*This policy was agreed by governors on 4.12.14 and will be reviewed every three years unless required sooner.*