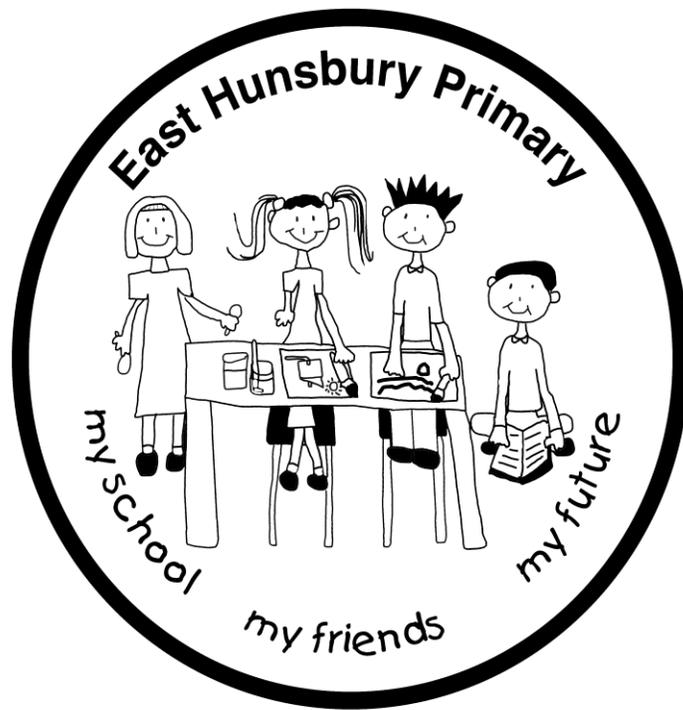


Homework Policy

# East Hunsbury Primary School



## Homework Policy

## **Homework at EHPS**

It is important to emphasise that although homework has its place and purpose it should not take the place of other valuable times a parent and child spend together. Quality time at home with opportunities to follow the children's interests, to discuss and become involved in activities together are of paramount importance if our children are to feel happy and secure.

The purpose of homework changes as children get older. In Year R and Key Stage One, the key purpose is developing a partnership with parents and carers, and involving them actively in their children's learning. Simply talking together about what the children have been learning in class can make such a difference. Children of all ages appreciate that their parents and carers value and show enthusiasm for their learning. As children move through Key Stage Two, homework begins to provide an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning and organisation as we prepare the children for the transition to Secondary School.

### **The best homework exhibits five characteristics**

- The task has a clear purpose - practice, checking for understanding, applying knowledge or skills
- It demonstrates the pupils intended learning ( not taking an inordinate amount of time without the intended outcome being secured)
- It promotes ownership by offering choices, learning style preferences and being personally relevant
- It instills a sense of competence- the pupil can complete it with minimal help
- It is enjoyable, interesting and relevant

### **Purpose:**

To:

- Consolidate the children's class learning
- Prepare for new learning to ensure classroom success and participation
- Research to prepare for and more importantly to extend and enrich learning
- Revise, practise and memorise skills and learning
- Apply learning in new contexts and to new problems
- Investigate own interests stemming from core learning
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and teachers to work in partnership and helps parents become involved in their child's education and learn about the things they are doing in school.

## **What can Parents Expect?**

There are no national expectations or requirements on schools regarding the amount of or type of homework that Primary schools should send home. Schools are left to determine their own Homework Policy.

From September 2014, the children in Mainstream will be required to undertake “Core” or “must do” homework tasks each week often related to Literacy and Numeracy. During the half-term, the children will also be asked to answer a “Learning Challenge Question” related to their “Learning Challenge” Unit. Pupils will also be offered the opportunity to complete extra/optional extension and enrichment homework tasks.

To ensure the pupils remain engaged in and motivated by their home learning, their teachers will vary the range and number of activities each week. Here are some of the examples of “Core Homework” tasks from which teachers will select.

### **Core / Must Do Homework:**

#### **Examples:**

**Reading:** We cannot stress too highly the importance of regular reading at home; this should be encouraged on a **daily** basis, e.g. Reading Books - scheme book or books from our school library or books from home.

**Reading Logs/Reviews/ Synopsis** - Year 3-6 (from time to time)

**Spelling Practice - Weekly or Fortnightly** key words, topic words, words from individual spelling logs, age related spellings, Spelling Bee challenges which will be revisited in class alternating with Number Practice/Tables.

**Maths** - We cannot stress too highly the importance of regular weekly or fortnightly Number practice at home. This includes practising Number Bonds and Times Tables **fortnightly** which will be revisited in class alternating with Spellings.

**Application of Maths Skills and ICT based Maths Activities:** During the half term the children will be asked to complete Problem Solving and Investigation Tasks. Also from time to time during the half -term, the pupils will be advised to complete differentiated **My Maths, Mathletics, Timetable Rock Stars** activities to reinforce aspects of their learning in class.

**Mathletics:** Some parents may wish to continue with Mathletics but we may need to incur a small annual charge.

**Maths Watch Clips** - to be revisited in class (Year 6)

**Reading, Maths and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) Practice Papers** (mainly Year 5 and Year 6)

**SPAG.com** – is available for pupils within Years 1 to 6

**Short focused Tasks:** These tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught in class and which is built upon in school are likely to be more effective than daily homework.

Examples are:

**Learning Challenge Logs** – Introduced in 2014 and now used across Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). Further details to follow.

**Learning Challenge Questions:** From time to time, other year groups may be asked to research a Learning Challenge Question from a new Learning Challenge Unit to further engage the children in their learning.

**School Blog:** From time to time class teachers may set tasks for homework using the Year group blogs.

### **Optional /Extra Homework Tasks**

The optional ones are extension and enrichment tasks so if they're not completed it isn't so crucial. If a child is fascinated by a topic or task and requests longer to work on it, great!

#### **Examples:**

- Mind Maps/ Pictures -reflecting upon and representing what they have been learning during the week
- Flipped Learning / Pre-learning research-finding out about what they will be learning next week or next half term
- Researching further around their learning
- Key Skill Activities
- Blogging on the Year group Blogs(particularly good at helping boys' literacy skills)
- Recommended websites
- Recommended visits

### **Extra Self-Selected tasks.**

Some children may feel very passionate about some aspects of their learning or an outside school interest or hobby. If they want to complete activities, research outside school they shouldn't be discouraged. We will always be happy to share it with their class to reward their independent efforts.

### **What if a child finds homework difficult to complete?**

If a child is finding a task too challenging and are starting to get distressed, let them stop. Sometimes coming back to it later helps, but if you feel that they have tried their hardest and are unable to make progress; just write a note to the class teacher in the home link book. Communicating this is vital!

## **Procedures regarding incomplete homework**

Staff will make every effort to allow reasonable time frames for completing homework tasks, acknowledging that weekends and holidays can be busy family times.

Pupils who do not complete their Core “must do” homework or who have not spent the recommended time trying to complete their homework will be provided time in school to finish it often with help from nominated pupil mentors or staff to ensure the pupil understands and is confident regarding the homework content. This will be provided as time to catch up with their peers rather than a punishment.

The school may contact parents if regularly missing homework is causing problems in class. However, we do hope that most children and their families will see the importance of remembering to complete their homework at home. By showing an interest parents are communicating that school work is important. It also helps pupils become independent and self-disciplined which will help them prepare for their next phase of education.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This is a new Homework Policy to run alongside our New Curriculum. We will be monitoring its effectiveness throughout the year and will invite parent feedback informally at our Teaching and Learning Conferences (Open Evenings) in November and in a survey to be conducted in the Spring Term 2018.

**September 2017**