



CHURCHFIELDS
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Homework Policy

October 2019

Approved by GB: October 2019

Next review due: October 2022

Introduction

As a school we believe that properly designed homework can play a valuable part in a child's education. Certainly, over a school career, homework can add a substantial amount of study time. Through this policy we aim to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school by outlining the purpose, types and amount of homework set. We recognise the fact that the purpose of homework may change as pupils get older and that the needs of the individual pupil should be taken into account. As a staff, we give careful consideration to making homework suitable and well balanced across the school.

We believe homework works best when:

- Children and parents/carers are very clear about what they need to do
- Parents and carers are treated as partners in their child's learning
- Tasks are carefully planned in year groups and with structures to support by progression in learning, as part of the school's curriculum
- It builds on and helps to consolidate work done in class
- There is a regular programme so that everyone knows what is expected each week
- Homework is achievable by all pupils and adaptations are made where necessary
- There is consistency in expectation across the school

For our policy to be implemented successfully parental support is crucial and it is our intention to involve parents and carers in the implementation and monitoring of this policy.

A Definition of Homework

Homework is learning that will help with, reinforce and extend schoolwork. It can therefore be defined as work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers. Homework should consolidate knowledge taught in class and is an opportunity for the pupils to practice recalling their knowledge/learning away from the school setting/teacher.

The Purpose of Homework

We set homework because:

- It helps the school develop an effective partnership between parents/carers and school
- It provides opportunities for retrieval practice, helping to secure knowledge into long-term memory
- It encourages the development of confidence, self-discipline and the organisational skill pupils need to study on their own, and prepares them for the requirements of secondary school

Type of Homework

Homework should provide opportunities for retrieval practice and for practicing material taught in the classroom.

Weekly homework tasks will include:

- a quiz of at least 5 questions to promote retrieval of knowledge, with a more challenging optional question
- a consolidatory maths activity set from the maths homework book
- a list of spellings to be practiced (see Spelling policy), including two high frequency words and two topic words
- a reminder of the importance of reading at home
- a task to lead musical instrument practice
- an activity for practicing knowledge and understanding of punctuation and grammar – often an activity from spag.com

Regular reading to and with parents/carers is vital. Our suggestion is that all children at our school should either read to their parents/carers or to be read to, for between twenty and thirty minutes a day. Help and guidance on what to read is available in the form of the Churchfields Reading Map.

If the some pupils from a year group are on a residential trip, or pupils are preparing for a performance, other forms of homework may be set during that week.

Monitoring Homework

Year Group Leaders will ensure that homework is carefully planned as part of medium and short term planning and that it is set in accordance with school policy. They will ensure the weekly homework sheet is completed and emailed to SLT on Thursday to be reviewed, prior to being emailed to parents on Friday. Class teachers will be responsible for setting and collecting homework for their own classes. This will include responding to parental comments and notes where appropriate. Teachers will not be marking homework tasks in detail as it is expected the tasks will have been discussed at home as homework is about learning at home. Where pupils regularly complete homework to a good standard, then teachers will use the school reward system and issue merits in recognition of their efforts. Teachers will give reminders and discuss lack of homework with parents of children who repeatedly fail to submit work. The school only issues detention to Year 6 pupils for missing homework.

Special Needs

Whilst it is important that children with a special need do as much in common with other children in the class, there will be occasions when it is more appropriate for them to do work which addresses their individual needs. Wherever possible these should be linked to their IEPs or EHCPs and should give plenty of opportunity for pupils to succeed.

Timetable of Homework

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of the tasks set and the way that they are planned.

Broad guidelines however, on the amount of time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework are as follows:-

English	to include weekly spellings activities and daily reading for 20-30 minutes
Maths	to include mental (e.g. times tables practice) and/or written) up to 1 hour per week
Topic	20-30 minutes

Note Topic and English Activities can be interchangeable

Homework is set on Fridays of each week for submission by the following Thursday.

The Role of Parent/Carers

The support of parents and carers is vital for this policy to be successfully implemented. As a child moves through the school the type of homework they receive is likely to change and therefore the role of the parents/carers will also alter slightly. In general it is our hope that parents will:-

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework alone or with the help of an adult
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Ensure homework is completed on time and if a task appears to be taking too long then stop
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework
- Become actively involved in joint homework activities
- Go through homework with the child, encouraging the child to discuss their work, ticking the correct answers, and dotting/discussing the incorrect ones. Note down in the book areas children struggled to grasp. Your child's teacher will then review the homework and write a comment about their achievement if needed.
- Parents are responsible for helping the children to manage their homework, for example organisation of time, planning of completion of the tasks, talking to the children about their homework and marking their homework together. It is also important they provide feedback to their children, and where necessary, to the class teacher through written means in the homework books. Parents should respect the professional judgement of the teacher.
- Parents will communicate with staff if there are issues with the child and homework.

Year 6 Expectations

In order to prepare Year 6 pupils for the transition to secondary school, homework should be completed every week. If homework is not completed and handed in by Thursday morning, pupils without homework will be given detentions until homework is complete.

If a pupil cannot access SPAG.com, they should attend a lunchtime computing club in advance. They will be given priority entry to the club to complete this.

Review

This policy is reviewed by staff and governors at least every three years. Parents are most welcome to request copies of this document and comments are invited from anyone involved in the life of the school.

Example of weekly homework sheet

Homework—Due: Thursday 10th October 2019 Year 6

READING

Read aloud for 20mins 3 x per week with an adult.

Don't forget to collect a signature for each book completed to receive a stamp in your Reading Express Passport. Signatures also result in the chance to win a free book!



MUSIC

Please practise the Chords and Ground Bass section of 'Timelapse' ready for next week's lesson.

History

1. What happened at the Munich agreement?
2. Who was prime minister before Winston Churchill?
3. How did he differ from Winston Churchill?
4. Why was Dunkirk seen as 'a miracle'?
5. What happened at the Battle of Britain?

MATHS

Sheet 3 : Short multiplication

Remember to play week **Times Table Rock Stars** throughout the week to improve your accuracy and rapid recall.

(<https://ttrockstars.com/login>)

This underpins so many areas of maths!

SPAG

Prepositions and adverbs (a)

Remember to log in and complete this assessment every week. (<https://www.spag.com/>)

Make sure you have completed any outstanding tests.

SPELLING

To understand grammatical vocabulary. These are key terms in the KS2 SATS exam.

subordinate preposition
adverbial abstract
synonym antonym
determiner progressive
conjunction sentence

TOPIC WORDS
appeasement foreign

High frequency words
these began

CHALLENGE:
We looked at the impact of Winston Churchill following his appointment and considered the question.

'Could Britain have won the war without Churchill?'

In your homework book write an answer to the question. Use what we learnt about why he was appointed, the miracle of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain to support your answer.