



HOMWORK

Approved by Governors: 3rd March 2016 by Curriculum Committee

Minute Number: 09.3/16 (C/P)

To be review by: Spring 2018

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that homework procedures at Ashgate Croft School are clear and all pupils are provided with appropriate homework.

Aims

Our Homework Policy helps to promote the AIMS of the school, particularly for:

- Pupils to be challenged to achieve their best;
- Parents/Carers to be involved as partners in their child's education.

What is homework?

'Homework' refers to any task or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or with parents and carers. Homework is widely accepted as an essential and valuable element of learning.

The new OFSTED framework highlights the importance of setting appropriate homework that has clear and relevant objectives, and which develops children's learning.

- Teachers set challenging homework, in line with the school's policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.

This is matched by the expectation in the Teachers' standards: 'Set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired.'

PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE

Homework – The School's Expectations

Homework should:

- Have a clear focus.
- Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed.
- Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary.
- Be varied.
- Be manageable by teachers.
- Be linked to current learning both in the curriculum and in personal skills.

Planning and Co-ordination

The planning and co-ordinating of homework will be the responsibility of the class teacher.

Whilst *all* pupils will be included, the amount of time and subject content identified for homework will vary according to age and ability.

Homework will be planned to complement and not just complete classroom learning.

Homework – What?

The type and amount of homework which is appropriate for pupils will vary according to the age and ability of the individual child.

Personal Skills Targets

All pupils have Personal Skills targets set in conjunction with parents/carers and sent home 2 times a year (October, May). These can be worked on at home as well as at school. (See Personal Skills Policy).

Reading

Pupils take home a book to share with parents/carers. Books are usually changed on a weekly basis although some pupils may keep the book for 2 weeks. Books include sensory story sacks and books to share as well as established reading schemes. Word flash cards may also be used and sent home. Parents/Carers are encouraged to complete recording books which are shared by class staff.

Spelling

For some pupils, where appropriate, spellings will be sent home on a weekly basis to practise at home.

Additional homework

Each term (6 times a year) teachers will send home a 'homework grid' (See APPENDIX 1). This will contain a number of activities on a grid and parents/carers are encouraged to complete 1 piece of homework on each line (one line for each week in the term). The activities will be linked to current learning/topics and should be differentiated for groups of pupils, where appropriate, within a class. Homework should include activities that can be done independently and with an adult/others. Pupils are encouraged to send in any homework they have completed/homework grids.

For example, depending on the needs of pupils, homework might include: keeping diaries of things done at home; pressing switches and BigMacs to share news with family members; finding out information connected to classroom topics (eg, time, 'space'); sharing photos and talking about work; finding and bringing in items from home to support topics.

Assessment

Teachers will assess any work completed at home. Teachers will aim to regularly inform parents/carers how well homework is done (including information about correct spellings, sharing reading records etc.)

Role of the Subject Leader

- Monitor/review policy.
- Monitor homework set each term - feedback to teachers.
- Monitor feedback from parents/carers from Parent/Carer questionnaires.

Parental Involvement

Parents and Carers will be encouraged to:

- Provide a suitable environment in which pupils can do their homework – alone or together with an adult.
- Make it clear that they value homework.
- Support the school by explaining how it can help their learning.
- Praise the pupil's achievements when they have completed homework.
- Take an active part in joint homework activities with children.
- Complete homework grids and return completed grids to school.
- Ensure that school books/worksheets etc. are looked after and returned to school in good condition.

Equal Opportunities

This policy reflects Equal Opportunities for all Pupils.

Monitoring of the policy

Monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Homework Policy will be the responsibility of the Deputy Headteacher. It will be reviewed by the Curriculum and Progress Committee of the Governing Board as part of a 2 year rolling programme.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

- Personal Skills Policy.
- Curriculum Policy.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Within the Homework Policy the Children's Rights which are developed are:

Article 23 - Children with disabilities are provided with support to participate.

Article 28 - The Right to education.

APPENDIX 1

Example of homework grid:



Ashgate Croft School Homework Challenge!

Class:

Term:

Topic/Theme:

Please try and complete at least one piece of homework with your child from each row. Colour in the square when it has been done and return to school at the end of term!

Thank you for your support,

Class Teacher