



Burford School

Homework Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: March 2009

Review date: March 2011



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HOMEWORK POLICY

**This policy was approved by the Governing Body in
March 2009**

The policy will be reviewed in March 2011

Introduction

Homework is the work which is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum but not necessarily at home. It will contain an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher and it represents an extension of the learning opportunities provided in school.

It is clear that properly designed homework can play a valuable part in education, adding a substantial amount of study time to a pupil's school career.

Objectives

Objectives for homework include:

1. To encourage pupils to develop the ability to study independently
2. To develop perseverance and self discipline
3. To allow practice, where it is needed, of skills learnt in the classroom
4. To permit more ground to be covered and more rapid progress to be made
5. To enable class work to concentrate on those activities requiring the teacher's presence
6. To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom
7. To involve parents (and other adults) in pupils' work.

Homework must be considered in relation to the rest of teaching and learning. It is one of the teaching strategies available and it needs to reflect the objectives of the curriculum and be designed in accordance with the needs of the pupils at the appropriate stages of their development. It should be planned as one of a series of learning situations and organised to use time as effectively as possible. The majority of tasks to be undertaken at home will concentrate on maths and literacy.

In Key Stage 1, children are asked to carry out simple tasks or investigations which are appropriate to their classroom activities. Spellings and tables are also practised at home.

At the beginning of Key Stage 2, children should be introduced to homework in a more formal way through the introduction of homework diaries. These will be signed by staff to acknowledge homework has been written in accurately. Parents will be asked to sign the diaries to acknowledge completion of homework (See Appendix 1 for details of administration). In Year 3 pupils might be required to undertake a limited amount of work at home - for about one and a half hours a week. During the rest of KS2, the children will be expected to take on an increasing amount of homework culminating in a weekly 2 - 3 hour commitment for our oldest pupils as illustrated on the following page:

Time allocations for Homework at Burford School

In addition to any other homework that our pupils are asked to do, the expectation is that regular reading takes place at home. With all children, this will mean the active involvement of parents/carers. This requirement follows the recommended national guidelines.

Year Group	Guidelines for Time Allocation	Subjects (Per week)
Reception	10 minutes per evening	Daily Reading, occasional maths
Year 1	One hour per week	Weekly maths, weekly spellings
Year 2	One hour per week	Weekly maths, weekly spellings
Year 3	One and a half hours per week	Weekly maths, weekly spellings and one other (literacy or topic)
Year 4	One and a half hours per week	Weekly maths, weekly spellings, word detective and one other (literacy or topic)
Year 5	Two hours per week	1 x longer maths, 1 x timestables, 1 x comprehension/writing, 1 x spellings
Year 6	Two and a half to three hours per week	2 x maths, 2 x literacy (inclusive of spellings), research and revision

Compulsory homework will not be given during the Christmas, Easter or Summer Holidays. On occasions, teachers may give children the opportunity to research for project work during any holiday period, but this will be optional and additional time will be allocated during term time. It is anticipated however, that all children will continue to read to parents during the holiday times from either a reading scheme book or other chosen text as appropriate to their age and ability.

It is expected that homework will be handed in on time. If this is not the case, the child will be asked to hand in their homework the following morning. If this is still not the case, a lunchtime detention for that day will be given in which the child will be expected to complete their homework.

Homework not handed in on time will not be marked by the teacher until the next round of homework is handed in.

Each year group will inform parents of the timings and content of homework. Parents will also be given guidance on what part they might have in homework activities.

Appendix 1

Administration of Homework diaries:

Each child in KS2 from Y3 to Y6 will be given a homework diary at the beginning of the school year. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their homework diaries. If the diary is lost, it is requested that a replacement is bought from the school office.

Children should bring their diary to school every day and take it home everyday.

Children will also be given a photocopied timetable for their class to stick into their homework diary.

Children will be expected to enter the correct dates into the pages within the diary on a weekly basis.

Homework instructions will be written on the board for the children to copy into their homework diaries in the appropriate space. Please note: homework should be completed in a separate book/sheet of paper as appropriate.

The class teacher will sign each piece of homework that is written in to ensure instructions have been copied correctly. As each piece of homework is signed, there will be no need for class teachers to sign the bottom of the page.

Parents will be asked to sign the homework diary to acknowledge the homework has been completed.

The homework diary is also intended to be a communication book when required. Therefore, Parents will be encouraged to write comments/notes to the teacher where necessary. In this case, the class teacher will sign the comment to acknowledge it has been read and follow one of the courses of action detailed below as appropriate:

1. Reply in the diary with a comment
2. Ask the parent to come in to discuss any issues in further detail at a mutually appropriate time
3. Reply to the comment through a phone call to the parent

Details of the administration of the homework diaries will be shared with Parents at the beginning of each year as part of the 'Objectives Meetings' which are held in the first few weeks of term.