

SINGLETON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



HOMEWORK POLICY

April 2023: Theresa Smyth

Date of Review April 2024

This policy was reviewed in April 2023 and will be reviewed in accordance with the review schedule set out in the Policy Review Schedule.

This policy was formulated and reflects a parental survey conducted in April 2022.

The Purpose of Homework

- to consolidate and reinforce skills, knowledge and understanding
- to provide opportunities for children to embed and research further aspects of their learning
- to provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences
- to provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership
- to ensure parents have a clearer understanding about our expectations for pupils
- to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence, independence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and, in Year 6, prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

The Type and Amount of Homework

Research by the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) says:

- *Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective. In particular, studies that included feedback on homework had higher impacts on learning.*
- *There is some evidence that the impact of homework diminishes as the amount of time pupils spend on it increases.*

As a general rule, at Singleton School, we believe that children in primary school should:

- read on a daily basis with an adult, especially those pupils who are yet to read fluently and are on the colour banded scheme
- read daily once fluent, and with an adult once a week to discuss the text / hear an adult read
- revisit learning which has already happened within the classroom to build their working memory (spellings, red words and where appropriate maths key skills)
- have meaningful opportunities to research or extend their learning which they can then share with their teachers and peers

Homework Organisation

Daily Key Skills Homework (Reading, Spelling and where appropriate Maths fluency)

This Homework is recorded in a Yellow Homework Book in Beech and Oak Class.

For Willow Class this is a Yellow Reading Record Book.

The expectation is that families prioritise the above as part of their daily homework routine.

- All children in Willow Class have a Yellow Reading Record for parents and school to comment in.
- This link book assists school in knowing how reading is going at home, any emerging challenges and a shared understanding of strategies to use.
- In Beech and Oak class the Daily Skills homework should be completed or practised in the **Yellow Homework Book**. The tasks will be reviewed on a **Friday** and new tasks given out.

Topic Homework This Homework is recorded in a Green Homework Book

At the start of each half term a grid of 6 homework options is stuck into the children's homework book. These tasks will link directly to the Topic being taught in the class for that half term. The responses will be varied and may include art, designing, filming, composing, cooking, writing or maybe drama.

The children are expected to complete at least:

1 task in Willow

2 tasks in Beech Class

3 in Oak Class

This Homework is always due in to school on the **last Monday of each half term** and is shared as a class. The children offer peer to peer comments as well as the teaching team offering feedback.

The EEF says that: To maximise impact, it also appears to be important that students are provided with high quality feedback on their work.

1. Children in Year 6

Pupils in Year 6 will have an increase in the amount of homework they are expected to complete. This supports their preparation for SATs and the transition to Secondary School where the amount of homework and frequency in which it must be completed increases. This may include past SAT papers or links to online practice activities to support children's learning.

Where children do not complete homework, an email will be sent to the parents to establish any potential barriers and ways in which the school may be able to offer some help.

In Key Stage 2, children will be given a lunch playtime to tackle any incomplete tasks.

The role of parents in supporting pupils

- Teachers will advise parents how best to support their children with homework tasks during their Meet the Teacher evening in September.
- Further advice on how to support early reading is given during family workshops early in the September term (see below)
- Teachers are always available to discuss any challenges they may be facing with supporting their child/ren to complete homework. the most
- Parents /carers should check what homework has been given, especially in the younger years or if your child struggles with organisational skills.
- Parents/carers should make time for homework, to build positive learning behaviours and habits for the future.
- Make sure homework is completed away from distractions if possible: TV/phones/ laptops away, unless required to complete the task.
- Parents/carers should support with scheduling where there are several pieces of homework to complete.
- Parents/carers should offer support / assistance during the homework but should not complete the learning for their child/ren

Supporting your child with reading:

Children who are not yet fluent benefit from adults:

- talking about the book prior to starting to read
- reading a page before the child **reads the same page**, to aid with fluency, phrasing and intonation
- selecting one page for the child to read independently to gauge use of blending and sight reading
- using the support pages at the start of the Read Write Inc books
- asking question to ascertain comprehension – what has the child understood from the text?

Children who are fluent benefit from adults:

- checking the chosen texts are not too hard: 5 or more errors on 1 page = text is too hard
- asking about their reading choices: what are they enjoying, why have they chosen this book?
- checking in to see if they are choosing a variety of authors and genres to widen their reading diet
- reading to them: children need to hear adults read fluently to gain an insight into how to use pauses and intonation.
- asking questions to check comprehension

Homework is a partnership and we ask that parents/carers communicate as soon as possible if there are any problems with completing either the weekly tasks, daily reading or Homework grid.