



Homework POLICY

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At Easterside Academy we are committed to building strong home/school links. We know that education is most effective where there is a positive partnership between home and school. We hope that homework/learning at home will increase a child's enjoyment of learning and his/her understanding. We know that it is crucial that we offer support to parents so that there is a better understanding of how learning can be further extended at home. In this policy homework refers to any work or activity which children are asked to do outside of lesson time, usually with parents/carers.

1. The aims and purpose of homework

The aims and purpose of homework at Easterside Academy are:-

- To develop an effective partnership between the school, parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school, which are clearly stated in our mission statement.
- To encourage a positive attitude to learning.
- To motivate learners.
- To consolidate and extend learning, especially in English and Maths, often through a cross curricular approach.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live.
- To provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and school to work together in partnership.
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the demands of secondary school.

Through this document we intend to:-

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence.
- Ensure that the needs of individual pupils are taken into account.
- Ensure that parents/ guardians have a clear understanding of expectations relating to themselves, their children and the school via the accompanying home school agreement.

Teachers will undertake to:

- Set engaging and varied homework that takes into account the differing ability levels of the pupils in the class.
- Make sure that homework extends and/or consolidates work that has been done in class linked to the half term topic/theme.
- Inform parents/carers if their child regularly fails to complete their homework or if it is below the expected standard for that child.
- Praise achievement and ensure that all homework is marked as soon as possible.

Parents will undertake to:

- Encourage their child to do their homework regularly and return completed work to school to be marked on time.
- Ensure that reading is carried out at home at least three times a week and recorded in their reading diary.
- Provide a reasonably quiet space in which children can do their homework.
- Engage in their child's homework.
- Encourage and praise their child when their homework is done.
- Talk to the school if there are any problems with homework.

2. Progression

All children will be encouraged to undertake homework from Nursery to Year 6.

The precise amount of time spent on homework is less important than the quality of tasks set, and the way they are planned to support learning. However, staff will adhere approximately to the guidelines listed below, which are recommended in the D.F.E.E. document "Homework Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools" Nov. 98

Years 1 & 2	1 hour per week	Reading Spelling Half Termly Project Work English and Maths Basic Skills – this includes beginning to learn their times tables.
Years 3 & 4	1 and a half hours per week	Reading Spelling Half Termly Project Work English and Maths Basic Skills – this includes learning their times tables.
Years 5 & 6	30 minutes a day	Reading Spelling Half Termly Project Work English and Maths Basic Skills – this includes learning their times tables. Year 6 – SATs preparation.

3. Homework Schedule for Each Team

- The homework schedule for each team (Early Years/KS1/KS2) will be agreed annually and will be linked to the pupil's curriculum and their learning needs.
- The Senior Leadership Team will ensure that there is balance across a term and year.

- **Parents will be informed regarding policy and the schedule.**
- **Homework newsletters will be sent regarding progress with the policy.**

Project Homework

- Project homework will be given at the beginning of each half term and will be linked to each child's theme/topic.
- This homework will be set for the duration of the half term and will be given with a deadline for submission at the end of this time.
- Families are encouraged to join in with and support the completion of 'Project Homework'.
- Project homework will usually consist of a 'creative' activity/task; English activities linked to the creative activity/task and a maths activity.
- Progress through the Project Homework will be tracked by staff weekly through a 'Project Completion Sheet.' This will be kept in the child's homework folder.
- A minimum requirement for the homework will be stated but children and families can complete more if they wish.
- Children will share their 'Project Homework' in class as part of their learning and will take it to their 'twin' class in school to share with their peers from a different Key Stage.

Spelling

- Weekly spellings will go home for the children to learn.
- Spellings will be taken from the National Curriculum and related expectations.
- The number of spellings will be dependent on the Year group the children are in and their individual needs.
- Children will receive weekly spelling tests in school at the end of the week.

Maths – Basic Skills

- Children will be given Maths targets to work on linked to the basic skills.
- With younger children this may include number recognition or number bonds to 10; with older children this will include learning their times tables.
- These basic skills will be practised, consolidated and applied in school.

Reading

- Each child will have a reading diary for parents/carers to record when they have heard their child read.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to read and enjoy a book with their child at least three times a week and record this in their diary.
- At school children are encouraged to **'Read around the Boro.'** For every signed reading session at home in their reading diary, children

will be given a point. These can be accumulated to enable children to reach destinations around Middlesbrough.

- At each destination reached children will be praised and given recognition for their reading at home as well as a small reading prize.

Early Years

Reading

- Each child in nursery will be given a reading record sheet to encourage them to 'read for pleasure' at home with their parent/carer. The children receive a reward when they have shared ten stories at home.
- Each child in Reception will have a reading diary for parents/carers to record when they have heard their child read.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to read and enjoy a book with their child at least three times a week and record this in their diary.

Home Achievement Books

- In both nursery and Reception each child has a book to record any achievements from home.
- Each child has a practical task or activity sheet set each week.
- Home activities are tracked by teachers each week.
- Children have the opportunity to share their home achievements through key worker times.

Home Loan

- Home loan bags are provided in both nursery and Reception.
- Bags and story sacks are available for parent/carers to borrow in the EYFS entrances.
- A sign-out system is used to track when books are borrowed.

4. Resources

- **Pupils will be given a designated folder in which to keep their homework.**
- **A synopsis of the policy will be included inside the folder.**
- **Homework can travel to and from school in the book bag.**

5. Homework Support

- Each half term a 'Homework Drop In' session will be held after school for pupils and parents/carers. The session will offer both support and use of resources and materials. E.g. paint, glue, ipads e.t.c. to complete the Project Homework set that half term. This will be for pupils in both Key Stage 1 and 2.
- KS2 pupils will be given an opportunity to attend a weekly homework drop in club held over lunchtime. Each week children will be given the opportunity to sign up if they would like to attend.

6. Policy Review and Evaluation

Effectiveness of the policy and schedule will be assessed by:-

- **Quantitative data collected from teacher homework records.**
- **Informal termly review by teams with action where necessary.**
- **Discussion with pupils and parents at 'Consultation Time.'**
- **Questionnaire sent out to parents to gather information on their views at the end of the year.**

The Senior Leadership Team will review the policy and schedules in the Summer term before the commencement of the new academic year, and amend in the light of evaluation.

The Governing Body will be informed of progress with implementation of the policy, monitoring and evaluation.