

## **1. Rationale**

1.1 At Barnton Community Nursery and Primary School we believe that learning at home is an important part of good educational provision. We believe that through providing a purposeful and organised homework programme we can develop an effective partnership with parents and carers and involve them directly in their children's education, sharing achievement and progress. We believe that quality homework not only supports learning in the classroom but also helps to develop successful, independent learning skills and fosters a lifelong positive attitude to learning in our children.

1.2 What is meant by homework?

Homework is any work, or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

## **2. Aims**

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout our school.
- Enhance and reinforce work and learning at our school.
- Help children to develop independent learning strategies
- Improve the quality and range of learning experiences offered to children.
- Work with parents to develop a shared understanding of the value of homework and how they can support their children with tasks set.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and school to work in partnership.
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy learning experiences together.
- Prepare children in Year 6 for secondary transfer.

## **3. Homework Objectives**

3.1 All tasks should:

- Give plenty of opportunities for children to succeed.
- Be enjoyable.
- Be differentiated to match the children's needs.
- Where appropriate, help to develop social as well as academic skills.
- Be manageable for teachers and parents.
- Not deprive the children of their vital playtime and enjoyment of other interests.

### 3.2 Homework makes the greatest contribution when:

- Children, parents or carers are very clear about what they need to do.
- Parents or carers are treated as partners in their child's learning.
- Homework tasks are carefully planned and structured to support progression in learning, as part of the schools schemes of work.
- There is a regular programme so that teachers, children and parents or guardians know what to expect each week.
- Children receive prompt, clear feedback on their work.
- There is firm leadership, and a team approach, to ensure consistent practice.
- The homework policy is regularly monitored and evaluated to check that it supports the child's learning in the best possible way.

## **4. Roles**

### 4.1 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy in a consistent and coherent manner throughout the school. She is also responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the policy, and for ensuring that the policy is reviewed on an annual basis. She is further responsible for communicating the policy to Parents, Carers and Governors.

### 4.2 The Classteacher

The Classteacher is responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable and rewarding for pupils. They should also be aware that they are manageable for Parents and Carers on a day-to-day basis.

They are responsible for establishing a regular pattern each week and detailing these activities in their planning. They are responsible for giving appropriate feedback as quickly as possible, (including feedback through class work or tests, or through discussion and comments on work). Recognition of effort in class or in assemblies is also a very important element in maintaining pupil's motivation.

### 4.3 The Parent or Carer:

Parents or Carers are responsible for:

- Providing a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which their children can do homework.
- Being actively involved in the homework and encouraging and praising their children when it has been completed.
- Making it clear that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their child's learning.

- Receiving, reading and signing this homework policy and returning it to school.

#### 4.4 The Child:

The child is responsible for understanding the value of homework, the expectations of the school, the necessity to work with their Parents or Carers, to always give of their best and complete work on time.

### **5. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1**

5.1 Homework will largely consist of regular reading with parents; planners must be signed a minimum of 3 times a week, sharing books together and listening to others reading. Also sharing activities such as learning number bonds, spelling patterns or simple educational games provide invaluable opportunities for young children to practise key skills, consolidating and enhancing classroom learning. Children in Reception are provided with a 'Homework Book' in which one piece of homework is set on a Wednesday, to be handed in on the following Monday. Parents of children in the Foundation Stage will be encouraged to upload evidence onto electronic Learning Journals. These celebrate and acknowledge achievements, experiences and learning at home, and will therefore, be referenced in line with the EYS curriculum.

#### **Key Stage 2**

5.2 Regular home reading remains vital and should be a daily activity for all children throughout Key Stage 2, with a minimum of 4 signatures in Planners each week. In addition, other English and maths homework will also include learning spellings, practising correct punctuation, number activities and tasks.

5.3 As children progress through Key Stage 2 tasks should increase gradually in demand. To help children develop independent, organisational skills a homework diary will be used in KS2. Children are provided with Maths and English Homework Books in which one homework each week will be set on a Wednesday, to be handed in on the following Monday.

5.4 In Year 6 Science homework is also set to prepare children for a wider range of homework, as they transfer to High School.

### **6. Meeting the needs of individual children**

6.1 All homework should be appropriate to the needs of the children. The more able children should be challenged and extended by the tasks. Other children may need to reinforce their skills, but still feel challenged. Children with additional needs will have work appropriately

matched to their ability; which has as much in common with the work from the rest of the group.

### **7. Types of Homework and amount of time to be spent:**

7.1 The main focus throughout the whole school will be on English and Maths. However, as the child progresses through the school, Science and other subjects may be added. The homework should provide the children with an opportunity to develop the skills of independent learning, and this should increasingly become its main purpose. All homework throughout the school is expected in on a Monday morning.

7.2 Regular reading to and with parents is essential if sustainable progress is to be made. We would expect the children to read at home every day, especially during the breaks in the school year. (A Homework Summary, outlining expectations of the children in each year group is outlined on the following page).

#### 7.3 Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	
<b>Nursery</b>	Sharing a book	WOW cards as and when appropriate	
<b>Reception</b>	Reading	English or Maths activity with support Mathletics WOW cards as and when appropriate Occasional topic work	Given Wednesday for return Monday
<b>Year One</b>	Reading	Spellings and English or Maths activity [20 Minutes]	Given Wednesday for return Monday (spellings Friday for test following Friday)
<b>Year Two</b>	Reading	Spellings and English or Maths activity [20 Minutes]	Given Wednesday for return Monday (spellings Friday for test following Friday)

#### 7.4 Key Stage 2

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	
<b>Year Three</b>	Reading	Maths and English [20 Minutes]	Given Wednesday for return Monday
<b>Year Four</b>	Reading	Maths and English [20 Minutes]	Given Wednesday for return Monday

<b>Year Five</b>	Reading	Maths and English [20 Minutes each]	Given Wednesday for return Monday
<b>Year Six</b>	Reading	Maths, English and Science [30 Minutes each]	Given Wednesday for return Monday

### **8. Failing to do homework**

8.1 It is expected that all children will do the homework set. If a child fails to do their homework they will be requested to complete it in school at Study Support on Monday lunchtime. Parents or Carers will be informed of this if it is a regular problem.

8.2 At Barnton Community Nursery and Primary School, we recognise that not all parents and carers, through a variety of reasons, are able to support their children in homework activities. School will support sensitively and with understanding, families in this position. School provides a Homework Club to support these children to do their homework.

### **9. Sickness**

9.1 Children who are sick will not receive homework. However, if after a number of days, a child is recovering but not able to return to school, at the request of the parent and with the agreement of the class teacher, homework may be sent home.

9.2 Long term sickness: Every effort will be made to support children and their families in this position. Priority will be given to maintaining positive and meaningful education in English and Mathematics.

### **10. Review and Evaluation**

10.1 The quality of homework tasks set and their relevance in supporting and enhancing learning will be monitored and evaluated termly by the Senior Leadership Team, together with the appropriate Subject Leader.

10.2 This policy was drawn up in consultation with parents, staff and governors. Staff will review it in line with our Policy Review Cycle, unless there are significant changes and therefore a need to review it sooner

**Approved by:**

**Julie Brandreth  
Chair of LGB**

**Alison Lawson  
Headteacher**

**Date:**

**July 2020**

**Barnton Community Nursery and Primary School**  
**Homework Agreement**

We agree to set homework regularly and consistently, ensuring that it is meaningful and worthwhile. We further agree to give feedback on homework as quickly as possible.

Mrs A Lawson  
(Headteacher)

I/we have read the School's Homework Guidelines and agree to encourage and help my/our child, ..... to complete, and return on time, all of the appropriate work set for his / her age group. I will also share books with my child at least 3 or 4 times per week, listening to them read, asking questions and supporting their reading development.

Signed.....  
(Parent/Carer)

I have had the Homework Guidelines explained to me and I will try to do all the homework I am asked to. I will read at home at least 3 or 4 times per week with an adult.

Signed.....

**(Child)**