

## Homework Policy

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<b>Written / reviewed by</b>	Mrs Walker	Mr Whittell	Mr Sullivan	Mr Sullivan	
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**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

## **1.0 Aims**

1.1 Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Form 6 pupils for their entrance exam to the grammar schools and consequently their transition to secondary education.

## **2.0 The Nature of Homework**

2.1 It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older, but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task (especially in lower school).
5. Homework should be set regularly from KG1 to Form 6.
6. Homework may be paper-based or IT-based (i.e. Times Table Rock Stars), and may be assigned through online portal(s) where appropriate, such as Class Dojo (F1-F4) or Microsoft Teams (F5-F6)

## **3.0 Recommended Time Allocation**

3.1 The importance of hearing your child read and discussing the text with them on a daily basis throughout their time in the Branwood cannot be emphasised strongly enough; this is a lovely opportunity to talk and share something of interest with your child, but it also significantly develops the level of their reading skills alongside the reading skills work they will complete during the school day

3.2 In Lower School - Homework will mainly consist of reading, learning spellings, sentence work using weekly spellings in context, number facts and maths challenges, but may also include more formal work in Mathematics and English skills. This will total approximately one hour per week in Form 1, plus daily reading, rising to approximately 20 minutes per night plus daily reading in Form 2; weekend work across Lower School will total up to 30 minutes.

3.3 All children From EYFS to Form 6 have a homework diary in which they write down their daily homework. Parents may also use the homework diary to write a note if their child has had any particular difficulty with the set tasks, or to communicate messages.

3.3 In Upper School - Homework will consolidate learning done in class, extend learning through research and make preparations for future learning. The homework allocation is as follows:-

Form 3 - 30 minutes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. 30– 40 minutes at the weekend

Form 4 - 30-45 minutes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. 40 – 50 minutes at the weekend

Form 5 - 45-60 minutes Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. 60 minutes at the weekend

Form 6 - 45-60 minutes each week night and 60 minutes at the weekend

3.4 Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, one evening will be allowed for the completion of a homework task except at the weekends and daily practice is encouraged in reading, spelling and times tables.

#### **4.0 Homework Tasks**

4.1 Listed below, for each stage of the school are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

##### **EYFS**

These may include:

- Reading books and key words
- Counting up and down stairs, number of jumps, number of tins etc. etc.

- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes.
- Identification of shapes in the environment.
- Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces – getting dressed and undressed etc. etc

## **Lower School**

### **Form 1 and Form 2**

These may include:

- Reading books and key words
- Learning spellings
- Learning number facts
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities
- Real life numeracy related problems e.g. shopping, car, bus and house numbers, use of T.V. remote control.

## **Upper School**

### **Form 3 and Form 4**

These may include:

- Reading
- Spellings
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities
- Times table learning
- Handwriting practise

### **Form 5 and Form 6**

They may include:

- Reading
- Learning spellings
- 'Talk Homework' that involves discussing the focus for a future piece of writing
- Handwriting practise
- Reading comprehension activities
- Planning pieces of writing
- Practise examination papers
- Planning presentations

- Researching topics
- Reinforcing of Times Tables
- Reinforcing of number facts and number bonds
- Practising calculation strategies learned in class

## **5.0 Role of the Form Teacher**

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a pre-school parents meeting or at an open evening if possible.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

## **6.0 Role of the Headmistress, S.L.T. and Governing Body**

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

## **7.0 Role of Parents/Carers**

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

7.1 At Branwood Preparatory School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

## **8.0 Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities**

8.1 All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and

individuals. Branwood Preparatory School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

## **9.0 General Information**

9.1 Homework should either be marked directly by teachers or should be self-marked by children (where appropriate). Self-marked work should still be checked by teachers. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, to groups of pupils or in general terms if it is found that a class have all had difficulty in similar areas.

9.2 If children are absent due to illness, we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.

9.3 If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Headmistress first.

9.4 It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

9.5 Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

## **10.0 Monitoring and Evaluation**

10.1 In order to ensure that the policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning, the provision of homework will be regularly monitored. A sample of Home School Learning Diaries and planned activities will be reviewed by the Headmistress and S.L.T. annually as part of the school's self-evaluation process. In addition, the scrutiny of homework samples will form part of curriculum leader's monitoring responsibilities at the allocated phase of the School Improvement Plan. Parents will also be given opportunities to share their views with teachers at parent consultations and other occasions as appropriate.

## **11.0 Links to Other Policies**

11.1 The Homework Policy should be read in conjunction with other policies such as Teaching and Learning, and Marking, depending upon the reason for referring to policies.