

Durham County Council

# THORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Homework Policy

# Thornhill Primary School

## Homework Policy

In order that our children can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one way in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support our children's learning.

### Aims and Objectives

Regular, well planned homework can:

- Enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- Develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future
- Consolidate, reinforce and practise learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work
- Encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance
- Help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school
- Provide opportunities for individualised work and to develop skills of independent learning
- Offer access to resources not found in school e.g. public libraries, local museums
- Provide a context for child / parent interaction.

We see homework as 'an essential part of a good education that supports children's development as independent learners'. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skills of independent learning.

## **What is homework?**

Homework should not be a chore, but rather children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork, a time to practise and consolidate. We acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development and believe that the correct balance of homework can complement this.

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possible activities. The following list gives a few examples;

- reading with a parent
- learning weekly spellings
- learning times tables
- learning number facts
- finishing off work from the class
- undertaking individual research for a project
- visiting the local library
- a family visit to a local museum
- being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation
- going swimming

Homework is genuinely a two way process. We ask for tasks and practise to be done at home and also are delighted to learn about our children's successes in other aspects of their lives and we actively seek to recognise this in school.

**When homework is set teachers will ensure that:**

- Spellings are recorded clearly and correctly in the personal planner every Tuesday and are matched to the child's ability.
- Maths facts are recorded clearly and correctly in the personal planner every Tuesday and are matched to the child's ability.
- Spellings and maths facts to be emailed out to parents/carers each week
- Reading books are of a suitable level of challenge and guidance is given in the personal planner on comprehension questions that can be asked to deepen understanding.
- Homework is marked promptly.
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and included in the report to parents.
- All children will be expected to complete tasks and we will support them in school if needed. They will be able to complete any unfinished homework in school during extra learning time.

## Types and Amount of Homework

Year Group	Tasks
Year R	Daily letters and sounds tasks and eventually reading books
Year 1	Reading books – minimum of 10 mins per day Learn weekly spelling and maths facts after Christmas
Year 2	Reading books – minimum of 10 mins per day Learn weekly spellings and maths facts
Year 3	Reading books – 15 mins per day Pre reading task Learn weekly spellings and maths facts
Year 4	Reading books – 15 mins per day Pre reading task Learn weekly spellings and maths facts
Year 5	Reading books – 20 mins per day Pre reading task Learn weekly spellings and maths facts
Year 6	Reading books – 20 mins per day Learn weekly spellings and maths facts Children in Year Six will be given extra tasks to support their learning as they approach the end of key stage tests.

## **The Role of Parents**

Parents have an important role in supporting children with their homework. It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance.

### **How Parents can help:**

- Provide a quiet area where your child can work. It is helpful to switch off the TV to aid concentration.
- Support your child with their daily reading writing a comment in the personal planner and signing it.
- Offer your help and support for younger children to complete tasks.
- Expect older children to work independently, but make it clear that you are there if needed.
- Encourage your child to complete homework tasks a little each day. If they leave it until the day before it is due, they may find that they do not have the resources they need to hand. The setting of homework several days in advance enables children to develop skills in organising their time.
- Take an interest in the homework and encourage your child to take ***pride their work.***

### **What to do if you have a query?**

If your child has a problem completing homework or you have any questions, please see their class teacher or write a note in their personal planner.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

In order to ensure that the policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning the provision of homework will be regularly monitored. Scrutiny of records of reading and spelling and mental maths tests scores will be undertaken by curriculum leaders and parental views on homework will be invited at parent consultations as appropriate.

Policy reviewed : Annually

