



Dean Field Community Primary School **Homework Policy**

At Dean Field, we believe that children learn best when parents work together in partnership with the school. This policy takes into account guidance given by the government on the amount and nature of homework for young children. Whilst it is recognised that homework if properly designed and supported can have considerable benefit to children, it is not compulsory and will not be set as a punishment. The policy has been agreed by the staff, parents and the Governing body and will be reviewed annually.

The purpose of homework

Wherever possible homework for children should be a joint activity and should seek to:

- show the child that both home and school are interested in learning;
- ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout school
- demonstrate to the child that learning does not only take place in school;
- extend and reinforce learning through consolidation and revision
- raise individual achievement
- promote parental understanding and home support for children's learning
- provide experiences that are different from those experienced in school but which encourage them to observe, discuss and analyse;
- develop self-confidence by gaining the approval of parents and carers.
- encourage children to develop independent study strategies

The Role of Parents and Carers

At Dean Field, we are committed to involving parents in their child's learning. This policy and the Home/School agreement outline the ways in which parents can support and enhance their children's education at home. The following are some guidelines, which may prove useful when working with children at home.

- Provide time and a quiet place in which the child can do their homework,
- Encourage the child to do the work at the same time each day so that a routine is established
- Encourage children and praise them when they complete their homework.
- Contact the class teacher explaining they found the work difficult.
- Attend Parents' Evenings and meetings.

The nature and amount of homework:

We follow the government guidelines for homework. The emphasis is on how homework helps them to learn, rather than whether it takes a certain amount of time. The guidelines for primary school children are:

Year 1 and 2: one hour per week
Year 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
Year 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day.

Our expectations for homework are as follows:

Reception Class

Reading picture story book /banded reading book – changed once a week
daily phonic sheet at times as appropriate
weekly activities or songs to do with parents at home

Literacy and Numeracy - information about focus for the week and ideas for activities

Year 1 and 2

Reading 10 minutes practice every evening plus additional phonic based activities
Spelling 15 minutes practice
Maths 1 set task weekly (this may be practical or internet based), e.g. practice on number bonds to 10 and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s

Year 3 and 4

Reading 20 minutes practice every evening
Spelling 5-10 minutes practice everyday
Maths 1 set task weekly (this may be practical or internet based)

Year 5 and 6

Reading 20 minutes practice every evening
Spelling 10 minutes practice
Maths 1 set task weekly (this may be practical or internet based) and learning multiplication tables

Additional topic homework or occasional Literacy work may be sent home in addition to the above.

At the beginning of each half term information will be sent to parents informing them of the work to be covered and suggesting activities they could do at home to help their child to improve their background knowledge.

The children should have sufficient time to undertake homework activities without too much intrusion to their family activities.

Recognising pupil's effort

It is important that the children's efforts are supported and praised both at home and in school.

We will recognise pupil's work by:

- 1) Providing and maintaining a reading record of each child;
- 2) Sharing work done at home with the class and in assemblies and on Seesaw.
- 3) Praising and rewarding pupils for their efforts using our reward system.

Use of ICT

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed.

There are many websites containing highly educational materials which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning.

Seesaw

Homework will be posted on Seesaw for children to complete. Children who do not have access to internet at home will be given the opportunity to complete their homework in school.

Monitoring Homework

The nature and frequency of homework will be monitored on a termly basis. The efficiency and effectiveness of the homework policy will be monitored on a regular basis by the Senior Leadership Team through scrutinies, pupil and parental interviews and questionnaires.

Holiday Homework

During the holiday a reasonable amount of homework will be given allowing the children to spend quality time with their families and engage in other activities. Homework packs given out will contain work that recaps prior learning, as well as fun and interactive activities.

Seesaw will be used in the holidays for pupils to engage with teachers and continue their learning. This engagement is optional but highly recommended to both children and parents.

In addition optional homework will be given to pupils whose parents request it. Teachers are not expected to mark this work.

Homework Club

Homework clubs are run on a Friday afternoon for all year groups and children are able to access support from adults and their peers during these sessions to help them complete their homework.

Informing parents and carers about the homework policy

The school will use Newsletters, Seesaw and Parents' meetings to inform parents and carers about the school's homework policy to secure their involvement. Parents' evenings will be used to promote this partnership and obtain feedback.

Although homework is not compulsory, if homework is not completed on a regular basis then parents of the children concerned will be informed and asked to come in to school to discuss this matter. If the teacher is still concerned about the child's response to homework then the matter will be referred to the head teacher.

Reviewing the Policy

The Head teacher will meet with the staff annually to review and update this policy. The results of the review will be presented to the governing body as part of the Head teacher's report.

Policy created - August 2018

