



Higher Failsworth Primary School

Homework Policy

2014

'Working towards an Education for Life.'

Date Adopted:	September 2014
Date of Review:	September 2015
Policy Reference Number:	9.1
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Higher Failsworth Primary School

Homework Policy

The importance of homework

At Higher Failsworth, we believe that homework is an essential part of pupils' learning. It is valuable for the following reasons:-

- It allows the teachers to check pupils have understood what has been taught
- It gives the opportunity to reinforce class work by practice and consolidation and allows for the possibility of extending it for the more able pupils.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in their learning and to complete the curriculum set for each subject in each year group.
- It can help create a partnership between home and school and can involve parents and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
- It can help to train pupils to become independent of the teacher and other pupils and to take responsibility for their own learning by teaching them to develop organisational skills.
- It can introduce pupils to, and can help them develop, a wider variety of skills
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.

Recommended Time Allocation

The amount of homework will gradually increase as pupils pass through the school. The time spent on homework will vary from pupil to pupil. The following timings are a guide as to how long homework should take **each week**:

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2:	up to 1 hour
Years 3 & 4:	up to 1.5 hours
Years 5 & 6:	up to 2.5 hours

Remember that quality, not quantity, is important.

Homework may be set over the school holidays.

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family.

The nature of homework

Listed below 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.

- Research Projects
- Practical activities
- Specially prepared tasks that extend class work
- Worksheets
- Reading
- Spelling
- Multiplication Tables
- Handwriting practice

Role of the Class Teacher

To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be by a note with the work, class newsletter or at an open evening if possible.

- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently.
- 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 when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

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.
- Let the school know if there are problems with homework e.g. it appears to

be too difficult / too easy or is taking too long to complete

At Higher Failsworth Primary 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.

Other ways to help at home

There are other ways in which parents and carers can help their child with learning at home:

- Sharing books and visiting the library
- Encouraging children to watch educational TV programmes, especially when linked to a Topic they are studying at school
- Visiting places of interest e.g. art galleries, historical sites
- Allowing them to help with shopping and budgeting e.g. pocket money management
- Encouraging them to take up a hobby outside school

Collection of homework

We expect homework to be given in on time. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and helps staff with their marking schedules.

If homework is not completed or handed in it can have a detrimental effect on a child's learning. Parents will be notified if homework is not handed in regularly.

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

Homework Club for KS2

This takes place each Monday at lunchtime. Children who wish to complete their homework at this time are welcome to attend. If homework is not handed in on time then they should attend homework club on Wednesday lunchtime.

Rewards

Various rewards are given for homework completed and for effort taken, such as house points, stickers and moving along the "Always" board.

Assessment and feedback

All homework will be assessed as soon as is reasonably possible whilst still fresh in the pupils' mind. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils. It is intended that all feedback be helpful to the pupils.