

Christ Church CE Primary School

Homework Policy

January 2012



Christ Church School is dedicated to providing a nurturing environment in which all children have the opportunities to reach their maximum academic and social potential. This is through the most effective teaching, learning and relationships....

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and in consultation with parent co-ordinators. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Spring Term 2012. It should be read alongside the Home School Agreement Document that all children and parents sign.

Aims of the Policy

- 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.

Purpose of Homework

- 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.
- Provide opportunities for pre thinking for school learning.
- Provide opportunities for putting school based learning into real life contexts.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

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.
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.

5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage where it starts as activities recommended in the weekly newsletter and daily reading to Year 6 where more extended and daily activities are set.

Recommended Time Allocation

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, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 – 30-45 minutes per day

Homework Tasks

Listed below, for each Phase of Christ Church, 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.

There will be a mixture of formal pencil and paper activities and more creative activities offered for all year groups as part of their diet of experiences.

Foundation Stage

These may include:

- Reading and completion of a reading record
- Counting up and down
- Number recognition
- Learning sounds or high frequency words
- Researching or talking about learning for the next week
- Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces.

Year One and Two

These may include:

- Reading and completion of a reading record
- Spellings
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities
- Learning Times Tables
- Learning number facts and number bonds
- Real life numeracy related problems e.g. shopping, car, bus and house numbers, use of T.V.
- Collecting of information related to different areas of curriculum learning
- Free writing preparation tasks
- Class Book reading and related activities
- ICT activities

Year Three and Four

These may include:

- Reading
- Spellings
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities
- Learning Times Tables
- Learning number facts and number bonds
- Real life numeracy related problems e.g. shopping, car, bus and house numbers, use of T.V.
- Collecting information related to different areas of curriculum learning
- Free writing preparation tasks
- Longer scale projects related to class topics
- Class Book reading and related activities

Year Five and Six

They may include:

- Reading aloud to an adult on a regular basis
- Learning spellings
- 'Talk Homework' that involves discussing the focus for a future piece of writing
- Handwriting practise
- Reading comprehension activities
- Planning pieces of writing
- Planning presentations
- Researching topics/ projects
- Learning Times Tables
- Learning number facts and number bonds
- Practising calculation strategies learned in class

Timing of homework activities

- Having taken feedback from parents, all classes from Reception to Year 4 are given homework that spans school night and weekends to suit the differing needs of families.
- Year 5 and 6 will receive daily homework tasks
- Homework will be set for holidays but will span school days at the end or beginning of term for children who cannot complete their tasks during the holidays.
- Summer Holiday homework will take the form of a competition and will be optional.
- Homework handed in late will not be marked as class teachers are incredibly busy and only set themselves a specific time to check and mark homework.

Homework Club

This club runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to support parents who find it hard to fit in all the homework at home. Two very experienced teaching assistants run the club. Some places at the club are funded by the school at the discretion of the Senior Leadership team of the school.

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 done by a note with the work, at individual parent meetings or at an open afternoons if possible.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.
- 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.

4

Role of the Head teacher 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
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To sign a home school agreement dealing with homework.
- 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.

At Christ Church 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.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

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. Christ Church 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.

General

- Wherever possible staff should try to mark any homework that is returned by pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. 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.

- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- 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 Head Teacher first.
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in the Spring Term 2014.

Signed: *Avis Hawkins*

January 2012



Name of School	Christ Church Primary School
Policy review Date	January 2012
Date of next Review	January 2014
Who reviewed this policy?	Avis Hawkins & Gill Putterill
Ratified by Governors	January 2012