

Bournes Green Junior School

Homework Policy

September 2008

Definition

Homework is defined as any work planned or approved by the teacher to be completed by a pupil outside regular classroom times.

Philosophy

The overall effectiveness of homework in achieving success is dependent on many variables including the purpose, type and quantity of homework assigned, the ability level of the student, as well as the role played by teachers, children and parents in the design, completion, evaluation and marking of homework.

Purpose

- Research has clearly shown that homework for children of junior school age should be designed to develop positive attitudes and work habits as well as to expand content knowledge.

Guidelines for Quantity and Type of Homework

Children will be expected to:

- Read daily (to a parent, or individually) and a record of this reading to be made by the parent in the child's Reading Record Book.
- Learn their mathematical tables and number bonds for assessment during regular tests in class.
- Learn spellings for regular tests.
- Practise a musical instrument if applicable.
- Complete and present work set from time to time by the class teacher (this will not be given out, or expected to be handed in during the weeks prior to, or immediately following a holiday).

Government studies have shown significant improvement in children's ability to cope with academic challenges if they engage in reading for 1.5 hours per week (Yr 3/4), or 30 minutes per day (Yr 5/6). Reading for pleasure beyond this time should be encouraged and is statistically most likely to occur in houses where parents regularly can be seen to read for pleasure, themselves.

Responsibilities

There is substantial evidence that the quality of the homework assigned and teacher response to homework on completion, enhances value in improving student success. While it is neither practical nor necessary to give in-depth feedback on every homework task, teachers should use strategies that will maximise the effectiveness of homework given out.

Children

There is strong evidence that children who complete appropriate homework will demonstrate, significant improvement in academic achievement. Therefore children have a responsibility to develop the discipline and study skills necessary to complete homework on a regular basis. Children must:

1. have a system for recording homework tasks on a daily basis;
2. have a clear understanding of the homework they have been given, before leaving school;
3. ensure they take home the books and materials necessary to complete the homework;
4. allocate an appropriate amount of time daily for completion of the homework;
5. ensure that their parents know what homework needs to be done and by when;
6. hand in homework when requested.

Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in developing academic habits within children. However, research is also clear that parents should not assume responsibility for the actual completion of their children's homework. It is highly recommended that parents are responsible for providing the following:

1. time for their children to complete homework;
2. a quiet place for children to complete homework;
3. the expectation that homework will be completed to the best of their child's ability and within the time frame allocated;
4. information to the teacher about specific questions or concerns and feedback regarding the quantity and difficulty of homework.

It is also recognized that children often lead busy lives outside school and this is something that the School is extremely keen to encourage. Opportunities for socialising, extended play, adventurous exploration and family time are every bit as important as academic growth. If at any time your child is unable to complete their homework, simply write a note to their teacher explaining the situation and we will do everything we can to help.

Approved by Curriculum Committee
September 2008