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Homework Policy

The Governors and staff of The Emmaus Federation believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. We believe it encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom as well as promoting independent learning thus encouraging the child to take great responsibility for their personal progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.

The policy contains guidelines on how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough whilst others feel there is too much! The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which we believe to be reasonable and manageable as well as in line with the guidance provided.

Aims

Homework is encouraged throughout the school. To be most effective, parents, carers, staff and the children need to understand its purpose.

- It reinforces skills which have been taught in school and gives children the opportunity to practice what they have learnt;
- It encourages self-discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning;
- It promotes independent learning;
- It provides teachers with the opportunity to support and extend individual children;
- It sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school and futures employment;
- It encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers;
- It encourages parents and carers to become involved with their children's learning

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school which is reflected in the Home-School Agreement. We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time'.

Reading

We would hope that children read daily (alongside the schedule that follows) and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times and is not just confined to the total time spent completing homework. This would include fostering early reading skills, where appropriate. We want to promote a love of reading in every child. We encourage parents and carers to discuss their children's books and ask questions about them to ensure that there is understanding of their book as well as accurate reading.

Homework Schedules

Homework is given on a regular basis across the school following the schedule below. From time to time, homework may vary in response to a particular activity such as an educational visit. Homework content may be set as a written piece of homework or may include reading, games and activities to reinforce English, Maths or other skills. For older children homework may include completing work set, finding out information, preparing a presentation, designing and/or making something, trying out a simple scientific experiment and solving problems. As with all work set, homework is monitored and results are recorded.

Year Group	Guideline Amount	Tasks/Activities/Subject Areas: Our expectations are that:
EY		Children will read daily. A maths task, sound and/or word work will be set. This should be worked on for a few minutes each evening
Yr 1	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English and Maths task/game/activity every week. Time spent on homework should be up to 10 minutes each evening
Yr 2	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English and Maths task/game/activity every week. Occasionally they may complete a relevant themed task. Time spent on homework should be up to 15 minutes each evening
Yr 3/4	1 ½ weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English and maths task/game/activity every week. Home learning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term. Time spent on homework should be up to 20 minutes each evening
Yr 5	25 minutes daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English and maths task/game/activity every week. Home learning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term. Time spent on homework should be up to 25 minutes each evening
Yr 6	30 minutes daily	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English and maths task/game/activity every week. Home learning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term. Time spent on homework should be up to 30 minutes each evening

The gradual increase allows children to develop their skills and independence in completing homework and ensures that they are ready for the expectation of 45 to 90 minutes daily in Years 7 and 8.

Home Learning Projects

As part of our inclusive curriculum, all classes will be asked to complete a home learning projects at least once every term. These projects are linked to the class learning theme and children have a choice of which tasks they wish to complete at home. We believe the projects are a great opportunity for parents and carers to work alongside their child, enhancing their learning experience. The projects are shared with other classes and parents regularly.

Responsibilities

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned on time. Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for children to complete. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the children's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher. Class teachers will co-operate closely in their Key Stages to ensure that similar content and expectations between classes is in place.

The Headteacher will:

- Promote the school homework policy to staff, parents and pupils
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy

The teacher will:

- Set regular homework activities which will include both practical and written tasks
- Provide adequate and appropriate feedback to pupils through praise and encouragement, marking or testing (as appropriate)
- Set high expectation of pupils in completing homework

Parents and Carers should support their children by:

- Providing a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, somewhere reasonably peaceful, with supervision if appropriate
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school in explaining how it can help raise attainment
- Providing activities that support the activities set by the teacher
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard
- Being actively involved in joint homework activities with the children
- Contact the children's class teacher if they have any questions or contact the headteacher if they have queries of a general nature regarding homework. If parents wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parent should contact the governing body

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete task as instructed
- Ask for help as appropriate
- Gain increased motivation and enjoyment through home learning

Home learning should benefit teacher, pupils and parents by providing support and information to enable pupils to build confidence and make progress.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the homework policy is efficiently and

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effectively implanted within their class. This will be monitored by the Head of School in order to ensure homework is contributing to overall pupil learning and progress.

Inclusion

All children will have access to homework or that is relevant to their current stage of learning.

Equal Opportunities

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or home background.

Review Procedure

The policy and practice for homework was reviewed in October 2017 by the headteacher and the whole of the federation teaching staff. However, should it become necessary to amend this policy within two years it will be undertaken as an ongoing developmental process? The views of parents may be sought via parents meetings and the parent partnership group. The key criterion to assess effectiveness will be the extent to which homework contributes to pupil progress and their attitudes to learning.

September 2019

Mrs CV Collett.....
Executive Headteacher
Date.....

Signed.....
Mrs R Blowers
Chair of Governors
Date.....

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