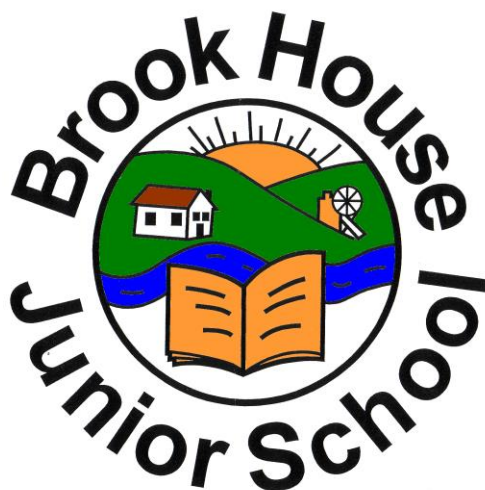

Homework Policy

Brook House Junior School



Reviewed/Adopted:	September 2018
Next Review Date:	September 2020
Review Frequency:	Every Two Years
Reviewed By:	Mark Hinchliff

Introduction

This is Brook House Junior School's homework policy. As a school we believe that properly designed homework can play a valuable part in a child's education. Certainly, over a school career, homework can add a substantial amount of study time. Through this policy we aim to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school by outlining the purpose, types and amount of homework set. We recognise the fact that the purpose of homework may change as pupils get older and that the needs of the individual pupil should be taken into account. As staff, we give careful consideration to making homework suitable and well balanced across the school.

At Brook House our aim is to ensure all pupils develop as individuals equipped to cope in the ever-changing world in which we live. As such we ensure that elements of our homework are constructed to empower children to think, reflect and be creative to ponder the wonder that is our world.

We believe homework works best when:

- Children and parents/carers are very clear about what they need to do
- Parents and carers are treated as partners in their child's learning
- Tasks are carefully planned in year groups and are structured to support progression in learning, as part of the school's schemes of work
- There is a regular programme so that everyone knows what is expected each week
- Children receive prompt, clear feedback on their work
- Homework is achievable by all pupils

For our policy to be implemented successfully parental support is crucial and it is our intention to involve parents and carers in the implementation and monitoring of this policy.

Definition of Homework

Homework is learning that will help with schoolwork. It can therefore be defined as work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.

Amount and Timetable of Homework

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of the tasks set and the way that they are planned. Broad guidelines however, on the amount of time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework, and the days on which it will be set, give a useful framework for both teachers and parent/carers. The homework expectations for each year group will be as follows:

Years 3 and 4	2 hours per week	Daily reading, spellings and practise of times tables. Planned weekly English and Mathematics learning. Research project linked to class topic.
Years 5 and 6	2.5 hours per week	Daily reading, spellings and practise of times tables. Planned weekly English and Mathematics learning. Research project linked to learning journey Revision for SATS. Y6 homework may exceed the amount listed from Christmas through to May.

Daily Reading

We believe that all Junior School children should read every day either alone or with somebody else. To share a book with your child can be a wonderful experience. We run the Home Reading Challenge in every class which displays a chart to celebrate each child's participation and a target of 40 reads a term is set for all children in school. We collect participation numbers each week and children are awarded rewards for progress. We also award a book to the class with the most reading sessions each week in our weekly reading assembly. All children receive a reading journal for comments to be written in preferably by parents or older siblings.

Planned weekly Literacy and Numeracy learning

Each week the class teacher will set a formal piece of homework that should be linked to the current learning. Each piece should take about 30 minutes. This will be presented in an exercise book provided by the school.

Research Project

At the beginning of each term the children will start a new learning journey. The teachers would like the children to undertake some research leading to an end product. This could take the form of an oral presentation, PowerPoint, model or a thesis! The teacher will provide you with guidance upon the task, how it is to be presented and most importantly how you will receive feedback. Such a task will take much longer to put together and as a consequence an allocation of weekly time is apportioned to it.

Equality

We believe that all children are capable of accessing homework. The challenge for teachers and parents is to work together to ensure it is appropriate for the ability of every child. Our expectation is that homework is sufficiently differentiated to ensure it meets the needs of the learner. Often this may take the form of red, amber or green challenges. This will enable the children to find the correct level or to even challenge themselves to go further.

Monitoring Homework

The school's senior leadership team will ensure that homework is carefully planned and is set in accordance with school policy. Class teachers will be responsible for setting, collecting and marking homework for their own classes.

What happens if homework is not completed?

Should homework not be completed then class teachers will use discretion to provide an extra day or two beyond any agreed deadline so children have the chance to complete work. Beyond this if homework is still not completed a lunch time group, 'Catch up Wednesday', takes place where children who have not completed homework attend.

The Role of Parents/Carers

The support of parents and carers is vital for this policy to be successfully implemented. As a child moves through the school the type of homework they receive is likely to change and therefore the role of the parents/carers will also alter slightly. In general, it is our hope that parents will:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework alone or with the help of an adult
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Ensure homework is completed on time and your child returns it on the appropriate agreed day.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework
- Become actively involved in joint homework activities