

The Societas Trust: Goldenhill Primary Academy



Homework Policy: 2024

"Everyone Shines At Goldenhill".

Mission statement:

Goldenhill Primary Academy provides a happy, friendly, secure and respectful environment; where everyone achieves their potential and develops a lifelong love for learning.

Homework policy

Introduction

The academy policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Board. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Board during the Spring Term 2024 and is regularly reviewed.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
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 to Year 6.

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 academy. 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 minutes per day

Homework Tasks

Listed below, for each Phase of Goldenhill Primary Academy, 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.

Phase 1

Foundation Stage

These may include:

Reading books and key words

Counting up and down stairs, number of jumps, number of tins etc. etc.

Reciting nursery and counting rhymes.

Identification of shapes in the environment.

Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces – getting dressed and undressed etc.

Structured work linking to maths, literacy and topic.

Year 1 and Year 2

Weekly expectations include:

- Reading books and key words (at least 4 times a week)
- Times tables (daily using TTRS)
- 1 set piece of homework, which may include:
 - English activities
 - Maths activities
 - Real life maths related problems e.g. shopping, car, bus and house numbers, use of T.V. remote control.
 - Topic activities- research and creative activities

Year 3 and Year 4

Weekly expectations include:

- Reading (at least 4 times a week)
- Times tables (daily using TTRS)

2 set pieces of homework, which may include:

- English activities
- Maths activities
- Topic activities- research and creative activities (you may be given up to 2 weeks to complete these).

Year 5 and Year 6

Weekly expectations include:

- Reading (at least 4 times a week)
- Times tables (daily using TTRS)

2 set pieces of homework, which may include:

- English activities
- Maths activities
- Topic activities- research and creative activities (you may be given up to 2 weeks to complete these).

Setting and handing in homework:

Homework is set on a Friday and handed in the following week Wednesday.

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a pre-school parents meeting or at an open evening 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 appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils.
- To inform parents when homework is not completed.

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.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the academy 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 Goldenhill Primary Academy 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. Goldenhill Primary Academy 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 will 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 academy 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. However, 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 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.