



Brentwood School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy is applicable to all Preparatory pupils including those in the EYFS.

Introduction

Homework plays an important role in the Prep School and in each child's education.

This policy is intended to promote a level of consistency in approach across phases and different subjects.

Purpose of Homework

The following purposes are set out to provide guidance to departments/phases and will be met by the curriculum as a whole and not necessarily delivered by each individual subject:

- to develop children's self-discipline and the ability to work independently
- to extend effective learning time (for example, the completion of topic research work)
- to provide feedback to the child and teacher of the child's autonomous knowledge, skills and understanding of classwork
- to consolidate knowledge, skills or understanding of work
- to prepare for future work (for example, preliminary research about a new topic)
- to encourage research and extension work including the use of resources available outside of school (for example, use of questionnaires, internet, surveys, local library, etc.)
- to enable differentiated tasks to be set which match the abilities of pupils (for example, reading scheme, open-ended investigations, spelling challenges)
- to encourage closer liaison and co-operation between home and school (for example, by involving parents in their children's work and the monitoring of homework)

Organisation

The following information shows the Prep School's homework schedule:

For pupils aged 3 – 7 in The Higgs Building

Homework will be given that is appropriate for the needs and age of each child.

Nursery pupils will be encouraged to choose books from the Nursery Book Box for their parents to read aloud to them. The book must be returned before another book is chosen. Other activities may also be given as the year progresses.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils:

Reading – All children will take home a reading book for reading with and to parents on a daily basis. Parents are expected to write comments from home in the Home School Book as appropriate. In early stages, children will be given basic vocabulary words to learn and recognise by sight. Later stages may include book reviews.

Spelling – Children will progress to being given spelling lists to learn at home. These lists may be associated with ‘word families’ or may be appropriate to a specific topic being undertaken.

Mathematics & English – Assignments may be set by the Class Teacher, as appropriate.

Science – Activities for home discussion and exploration may be set from time to time.

General Knowledge – All children may be tasked with a ‘finding out’ activity.

Links to Websites – Links to websites will be given to children to follow activities to rehearse concepts in Maths and Literacy in Year 1 and Year 2.

Links to Creative Curriculum – a half termly task is given to each year group linked to their creative topic.

For pupils aged 7 – 11 in Middleton Hall

Year	Homework	Homework Duration
3	English (2 evenings), maths (2 evenings). <i>One homework per evening with one evening to ‘finish off’ class work.</i>	20 minutes
4	English (2 evenings), maths, science, history or geography (one evening each). <i>One homework per evening</i>	30 minutes
5	English (2 evenings), maths, science, history or geography (one evening each) <i>One homework per evening and one at the weekend</i>	40 minutes
6	English, maths, science, geography, history, Latin (all one evening each) <i>One homework per evening and one at the weekend.</i>	40 minutes

Every child receives a timetable which shows the precise day for each of their subject’s homework.

It is also expected that pupils in Years 3 and 4 read aloud to someone for ten to fifteen minutes each evening and discuss the texts in order to enhance their comprehension skills. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 are also expected to read aloud to someone at home at least two times a week. This should be recorded in the pupil’s Form Diary.

A form diary is issued to each child. Details of each homework should be recorded by the pupil into this book, which is checked regularly by their form teacher. We expect parents to sign this diary at the end of each week to acknowledge that the pupil has completed his/her homework satisfactorily. Should a child be unable to complete a homework, we would appreciate a brief letter to the subject teacher or a note in the form diary, explaining the reasons.

The Form Diary is also used as a reading record and parents are asked to sign and record the details of their child's reading each day.

Whilst it is important for pupils to develop their ability to work independently, it is also desirable that pupils have the opportunity to check their homework with an adult each evening. Parents are guided to offer assistance but we recommend that they do not answer questions for the child or provide a level of help which supersedes their own input. We also guide parents not try to impose a method different to that which has been taught, since this can lead to confusion for the child. Where adult assistance has been given, an alternative colour may be used to indicate support.

If a child is too ill to attend school then it is our policy to not send any work home for them to complete nor do we feel it appropriate to set special homework. Topic links, however, are available on our VLE (FROG).

Occasionally, homework may be set during the holidays so that skills and knowledge are not easily forgotten. We do, however, encourage pupils to read regularly and practise number bonds and multiplication tables during every holiday.

Marking of Homework

This will vary according to type of work set.

Most homework set is to give children the chance to consolidate what they have learnt and a parent is expected to be on hand to give praise and immediate feedback which is appropriate for the age group (more support given to younger pupils, whereas KS2 pupils become progressively independent). Sight words are checked off on assessment sheets on a regular basis in class. Research pieces come into class for discussion and tasks like spelling are marked by the spelling test in class. Written pieces may be shared with peers for comparison against success criteria and staff marking and feedback to pupils and parents should be according to the Prep marking policy (see separate document).

Monitoring

Teachers are responsible for monitoring homework through their liaison with pupils and parents and are expected to raise any issues with the Deputy Head (Mrs Cooke) as these arise. The Deputy Head is responsible for regularly monitoring the homework set by staff and completed by pupils across the whole age range. This includes the quality of the marking as set out in the Marking Policy. Homework is also on review meeting agendas for discussion in year groups. A homework timetable is prepared so that pupils complete a consistent amount.

As mentioned previously, parents have an important role in monitoring homework and providing a suitable environment where homework can be done properly. The class teacher is responsible for following up with the parent as to why homework has not been completed or is unsatisfactory, in case there are issues at home which need discussing. Parents are made aware of homework expectations via the parent handbook and in introductory curriculum meetings at the start of the academic year.

