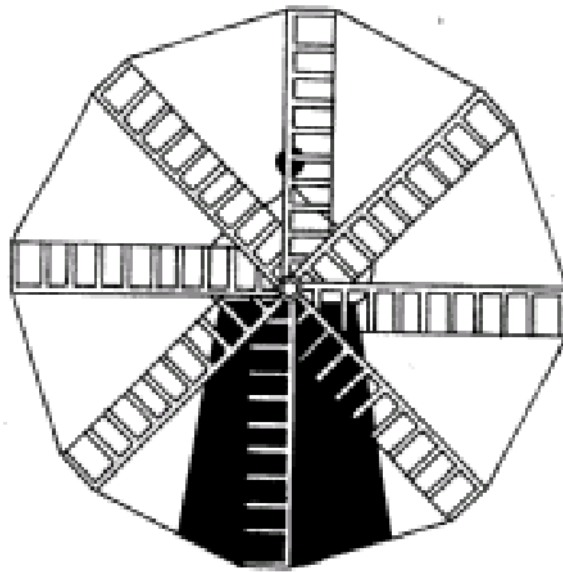


Homework Policy

Heckington St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School

Respect + Responsibility + Relationships + Resilience + Reverence Five Rs =
Ready for Life

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10



Approved by: Curriculum & Standards Committee **Date:** 10.10.2022

Last reviewed on: 10.11.2021

Next review due by: October 2024

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Data collected from parents indicates that a consistent approach to homework is required. The school is of the opinion that homework is important since it reinforces and extends the teaching and learning that occurs during the day. Homework encourages parental involvement in children's learning and helps to develop independence.

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Heckington St. Andrew's we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

1. Our aims of providing homework are to:

- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and an individual responsibility
- Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account
- Ensure that parents/carers understand our expectations of them
- Improve the quality of learning experiences offered to the children
- Extend and support learning
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership
- Inform parents about work going on in class
- Provide opportunities for children and parents to share learning experiences
- Give children the opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts,
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- Prepare Year Six children for the secondary phase of education

2. Homework at our School

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, St. Andrew's is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. Children should be encouraged to discuss any problems they are having with their teacher. It is not acceptable for children to struggle excessively, causing upset at home. Obtaining parental support is of paramount importance to us.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves and children are rewarded in accordance with our class and school-based reward systems (dojos/ merits) for completing homework to a good standard. One day's

leeway will be given regarding the deadline for handing in work. If a child consistently does not complete their homework regularly, we will discuss with parents how we may support.

3. Our routines and expectations

All classes assign weekly homework on Seesaw on a Thursday. If it is a piece that needs handing in, it is expected to be returned or submitted via Seesaw / a photograph of the completed work uploaded to Seesaw by the following Tuesday.

The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home. Our main focus for homework set is the core skills of reading, spelling and times tables/number facts. Alongside this, there will be additional work provided by the class teacher that children may also complete. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. However, they may, where appropriate, be asked to find out something new.

Homework will increase as a child gets older and, broadly speaking, these are current expectations:

Reception: daily reading, learning key words and phonics activities.
Year 1: daily reading, spellings/phonics, and number facts
Years 2 and above: daily reading, daily times tables, daily spellings and additional tasks each week that the children may complete.

We use Times Tables Rockstars for practise of key multiplication facts and Ed Shed to engage children in spellings, **and in KS2 there is an expectation that children will be completing at least 10 games per week using these platforms.**

Reading for pleasure is important as part of our reading culture in school and children are encouraged to spend time after school every day reading. This will be a book children have chosen from our school and classroom libraries.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen. In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial.

4. What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently, please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or the Head teacher.