



Hallam Fields
Junior School

Growing together. Learning together. Achieving together

Hallam Fields Junior School Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Through children working at home, we are seeking to develop the partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school.

We also wish to:

- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- encourage pupils to become more independent in their learning
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own and to prepare them for the requirements of Secondary School

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

We set a variety of homework activities although the main focus will be Literacy and numeracy. We expect children to develop more independence in their tasks whilst at Hallam Fields. In addition to spellings, reading and times tables children may also be set a piece of Literacy, Numeracy or topic homework each week. As children get closer to SATs in year 6 their homework emphasis changes to revision and they may have Maths, English and Science homework. This is not only to prepare them for their tests but also to prepare them for increased homework in secondary school. Children especially lower down the school, will have topic homework also set during the year. This will be over a number of weeks linked to their curriculum topics. This allows children to complete their homework in a style that suits them including creative or research pieces.

In addition, other homework activities will include:

- finding out information;
- reading in preparation for lessons;
- preparing oral presentations;
- more traditional written assignments.



Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised, normally with the reward of merits or tokens. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed

in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach. Wherever possible we encourage adult support with homework.

Regular reading at home is encouraged (10 – 20 minutes a day) for all year groups.

Amount of homework

Year	Daily Activity	Time - mins	Weekly Activity	Time - mins
3	Reading / Times tables	15	Spellings /Literacy and Numeracy.	30
4	Reading / Times tables	15	Spellings /Literacy and Numeracy.	30
5	Reading / Times tables	15	Spellings /Literacy and Numeracy or other curriculum area	45
6	Reading / Times tables	15	Spellings /Literacy, Numeracy and Revision	45

Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Through the signing of the home school agreement parents show a commitment to support their child's learning by ensuring that they complete their learning through homework.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class Teacher in person or through the home/school diary. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

Monitoring and review

The headteacher is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. The coordinator will inspect samples of the children's work and of the teachers' planning.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.

Homework should be given out on a Friday and be handed in by the following Wednesday or Thursday. This allows time for families to plan around their weekly schedule and have consistency between classes.