



FAIRFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Isaiah 49:16 'I have written your name on the palms of my hands'.

Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is loved and known by God.

Fairford C of E Primary School



Homework Policy

Reviewed by Curriculum and Standards Committee: April 2024

Date of next review: April 2026

FAIRFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY
Vision and Values

Our school vision is: *Isaiah 49:16 "I have written your name on the palms of my hands".*

Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is known and loved by God.

At Fairford Primary School we have chosen those values that best reflect our thoughts as a school and community

Perseverance

Friendship

Respect

Forgiveness

Trust

Thankfulness

1. Introduction

Homework is a vital part of a child's education, which can reinforce and improve their progress at school. This policy sets out why we have homework, what the school expects of class teachers and children, and how parents and carers can help.

2. What is homework for?

Homework has several different purposes. These are:

- to further the progress of every child by reinforcing class learning and developing key skills;
- to extend the learning that takes place in school in the home environment; and
- to develop a valuable home-school partnership in order to strengthen children's education.

3. What homework is given?

3.1 Homework is based around the core skills of English and Maths.

- In every class, from EYFS to Year 6, children are expected to **read at least 3 times a week**.
- **Times Tables Rock Stars Activities** are set to support children's practise of times tables. Lunchtime clubs are run for any children unable to complete these at home.
- **Spellings** are given in every class each week.

3.2 In addition to these basic elements, homework involving **either English or Maths** will be given in alternate weeks. In UKS2, revision aspects of both literacy and numeracy may be set each week.

Class teachers may vary this by occasionally setting a **project**, linked to the class topic, which may be completed over several weeks.

4. How much time should be spent on homework?

4.1 Homework is valuable and enriches children's education, but there is evidence that "little and often" works more effectively in promoting learning than having large amounts to do at the same time. Therefore, we recommend the following times for a homework task.

- Key Stage One (years 1 and 2) – 30 minutes maximum a week.
- Key Stage Two (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) – 60 minutes maximum a week.
- These times are on top of the daily reading.

Sometimes, for unforeseen reasons, a task will take a particular child longer than this to complete. In this case, as long as the recommended time has been spent, there is no need to complete the task.

4.2 Communication and home-school partnerships are cornerstones of this policy, and teachers will welcome notes from parents or carers in the children's homework books, or by email.

A parent or carer may wish to write if:

- the homework is too easy or too hard;
- it has revealed something (perhaps unexpectedly) that the child does not understand; or
- they would like to make a comment on the task or their child's approach to it.

5. Early Years Foundation Stage

5.1- Each Friday, 3 new phonemes are sent home to be added to the children's Speed Sounds Flip Book alongside the corresponding letter formation sheets. In addition, tricky words are also set which must be learnt by sight.

5.2 It is expected that children practise their speed sounds on a daily basis at home. The flip books and letter formation sheets do not need to be sent back into school.

5.3 Children are provided with 2 reading books per week, which are issued on a Friday, and these must be returned on a Thursday. Maths challenges and other topic related activities are set as appropriate.

6. When is homework given?

- In Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2), homework tasks are set each Friday and are expected in the following Thursday.

- In Key Stage 2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) homework tasks are set each Friday and are expected in the following Friday. Children mark the work, which is checked by an adult, and the books are then sent back home the same day.
- Where possible, homework tasks are put on the school website on individual class pages on Friday.

7. What rewards are available?

Children may be given merits for completing their homework depending on the effort spent on it.

Extra effort in homework may also be rewarded with a “Shining Star” award and recognised in front of the whole school during Friday’s assembly.

8. What should teachers do?

Teachers should ensure that homework is seen as purposeful and relevant, building upon previous knowledge.

9. What should parents and carers do?

Parents and carers should support their child as much as possible. There are some key ways in which they can maximise the benefit their child obtains from homework:

- discuss the value of homework with your child; it can be a frustrating experience if a child does not understand why they have homework;
- provide a suitable space for your child to focus on their work; ideally, somewhere quiet where the child can work comfortably;
- establish a routine for homework; depending on your family routine, it might be a good idea to set a time for working on spellings, reading and homework tasks because if a child understands that a certain time is always set aside for work, they will be more likely to focus quickly;
- ensure that your child understands the task;
- discuss the task when it is finished;
- praise your child’s efforts; and
- contact the school through the homework book or by other means if you need to discuss some aspect of the work.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Head Teacher and the Curriculum and Standards Committee of the Governing Body.