



## PARENTS GUIDE TO:

# Homework



### Parent Guide No 15

'...achieving excellence for ourselves and others'

*A strong and positive partnership between home and school provides the most secure basis for each child's educational development. Homework is one of the many ways in which strong links between home and school can be fostered. It enables parents to help their children to learn and children to see parents and teachers working together.*

#### Purpose of Homework

- ✓ To reinforce learning at school
- ✓ To apply skills in real life situations
- ✓ To promote independent learning
- ✓ To involve parents in their children's learning
- ✓ To practice key skills taught in school
- ✓ To provide time for extended activities
- ✓ To help pupils prepare for their next stages of learning
- ✓ To help our older pupils prepare for Secondary school

#### Guidelines

- Pupils are provided with homework books where appropriate.
- Homework is best linked to learning in school and open ended homework is extremely valuable.
- All homework activities will be valued and may be shared in lessons with other pupils and used in subsequent lessons.
- Children may choose to word process their work. They will need to print their work at home and stick it in their homework book.

- Homework is always given out and due back in on Wednesdays. There are spare homework sheets outside each classroom.
- Children may be required to stay in and complete their homework on Wednesday lunchtime if it has not been handed in on time.
- Children can choose to complete their homework in school during playtime or lunchtime if it is difficult for them to complete it at home. Either the pupil or parent should discuss this with the class teacher.
- Most children will be expected to spend 20-30 minutes a week on each of their homework tasks. Children in Upper Key Stage 2 and children completing open ended homework will often spend more time than this.

### Pupils with Special Educational Needs

- Pupils with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will usually have homework relating to their IEP targets. This may involve practising key skills, such as number bonds in maths or spelling of high frequency words in Literacy. They may have the same or similar homework for a number of weeks, in order to give the pupil time to improve their skills.
- Pupils with SEN will be given homework with clear instructions and they should be able to complete the homework independently. Teachers will take into account how long the pupil is able to work independently and will indicate to parents approximately how much time the pupil is expected to spend working on each homework task.
- As mentioned above, pupils may choose to word process their homework and this should be encouraged for children with handwriting difficulties.

### Marking

- The majority of homework will not be formally marked as our school believes that teacher time is best used for preparation, teaching and marking of work done in school.
- Homework is not generally used for assessment purposes (the main purpose of formal marking).
- Homework will therefore be valued through the use of stamps, stickers, discussion and marking in class.
- As appropriate, however, some homework may be formally teacher marked for specific purposes.

### Top Tips for helping your child with their homework:

- Plan homework at the same time of day each week,
- Create the right environment and minimise distractions,
- Ensure your child has all the equipment they need,
- Be prepared to help with organisation, reading instructions and getting started,
- Make sure they have enough time to complete the task,
- Consider using a small reward to entice your child to stay on task,
- Stay calm!
- Let the teacher know if there are any problems.