

Gladstone Primary School
Homework Policy

This Policy applies to all Children in School from EYFS to Year 6 (including the Nurture Provision).



Updated February 2016

The Homework Policy will be deemed to be successful if it is seen to be contributing to the progress of pupils and aids their attitude to learning.

Aims:

The purpose of homework is:

1. To enhance the performance of each child
2. To engender good habits in each child, in particular their measure of self discipline when needing to study on their own (but with some adult support if required).
3. To extend and support each child's work in school.
4. To extend the school boundary in both time and place
5. To encourage an important aspect of the wider partnership between home and school.

Aspects of a Quality Homework Policy

Homework should be planned carefully to ensure:

- the right amount of homework is set.
- the right level of difficulty is set
- the homework is set and marked consistently.
- it links with previous learning and is varied and takes account of different learning styles.
- there is regular monitoring of the Homework Policy

Working within the wider home / school partnership to ensure:

- cooperation between staff, children and parents
- good communication between staff, children and parents.
- support for children and parents to ensure that homework is completed successfully

The Processes of Setting Homework:

*As a school we will: Set, mark and monitor homework and reading when appropriate.
Home / School Agreement*

- Staff will keep a record of the homework set each week in their planning files.
- Class teachers and teachers taking sets with children who have SEND need to liaise to ensure that children should not become overburdened.
- It is important that children know what is expected of them in homework. Staff will issue clear, careful instructions when homework is issued.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Policy:

- The effectiveness of the Homework Policy will be monitored and evaluated annually in the following ways:
- Matters relating to homework will be discussed with the Headteacher as part of Half Termly Challenge Meetings.
- The planning of homework will be monitored by Phase Leaders when they monitor planning files.
- The subject of homework and the Homework Policy will be discussed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and should any issues arise they will be addressed at a whole staff meeting.

Study Support Facilities:

Mrs Rammel runs a homework club for MyMaths. This is available for children who do not have internet access at home.

*As a pupil I will: Complete any homework and return it to school on time.
Home / School Agreement*

If children do not complete homework:

- Staff need to keep records of homework set and completed and also ensure that all children return their homework.
- If a child does not complete his / her homework he / she may be expected to complete the piece of work in their own time - i.e. breaktimes and dinner times.
- It may be that homework is not being completed because the child has nowhere to do it at home this should be investigated by the Class Teacher and an arrangement agreed with the child and parents.
- Break time and Lunch time Detentions should not be used for children to complete homework.
- If a child persistently fails to return homework staff should follow normal discipline procedures - i.e Phase Leaders, Senior Management.
- If the problem persists then this will be discussed with parents. Mrs Rammell and Miss Corbett are also available to speak with parents.
- If the situation does not improve staff will have a meeting with the child's parents to discuss the best ways to help solve the problem.

The Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Pupils:

As a parent I will: Support my child in completing / handing in any homework or take-home pack when appropriate and regularly reading, commenting in and initialling my child's home / school diary.

Home / School Agreement

At Gladstone we encourage parents / carers to:

- support their child's learning at home by providing a clear space where there are to be no interruptions or distractions when homework is being completed.
- recognise the value of homework and encourage their child to develop a routine to complete homework at certain times or on certain days.
- encourage and praise their child when they have completed homework.
- form a learning partnership with school. Dialogue is encouraged through the Home / School Diaries used to develop parent - teacher communication, newsletters, parents evenings, etc.

To ensure that parents understand the school's homework procedures matters relating to homework will be discussed with parents. This policy will be available for parents on School Web Site.

Parents will also be issued with a 'Guide to Homework' pamphlet.

The Content of Homework:

The quantity and range of homework to be done within each year group is as follows. Time allocations are approximate and children are always allowed to do more if they so wish.

Nursery:

Rhyme of the Week

Phonic Reading Book (when the child is ready) – at least 5 times a week.

Letter sounds to learn

Brainbusters (a minimum of 2 activities every three weeks)

Reception:

Reading Book (phonic linked) – at least 5 times a week

Spellings

Letter sounds to learn

Rhyme of the Week

Tricky words to learn (when the child is ready)

Brainbusters (a minimum of 2 activities every three weeks)

Year One:

Home Reading – at least 5 times a week

Phonic linked spelling look, cover, write, check (3 times a week). 7 spellings in total.

Weekly My Maths online

Brainbusters (a minimum of 2 activities every three weeks)

A simple ‘Termly’ Project during a long holiday i.e. Christmas, Easter and Summer

Year Two:

Home Reading – at least 5 times a week

Phonics words to read (for some children)

Spellings (3 spelling patterns x 5 words each one)

Weekly My Maths online

Brainbusters (a minimum of 2 activities every three weeks)

A simple ‘Termly’ Project during a long holiday i.e. Christmas, Easter and Summer

Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 children have a weekly shared reading book of their choice which they can share as a bedtime story with an adult or older sibling, if they so wish.

Years Three, Four and Five:

Home Reading – at least 5 times a week

Weekly Spellings

Weekly My Maths Activity online

Brainbusters (a minimum of 2 activities every three weeks)

A simple ‘Termly’ Project during a long holiday i.e. Christmas, Easter and Summer

Year Six:

Home Reading – at least 5 times a week

Weekly Spellings

Weekly My Maths Activity online

Weekly Literacy/Maths Homework

A simple ‘Termly’ Project during a long holiday i.e. Christmas, Easter and Summer

During the run up to KS2 SATS Y6 pupils will be expected to complete more homework as follows with children being given either a piece of English, Maths Homework each evening.

Children are also expected to practise their times tables. The new government standard expects all children to know their times tables by heart by the end of Year 4.

Special Educational Needs:

Children with Special Educational Needs will have a balance of appropriate homework tasks - some in line with the whole class, some on a more individual basis. The SENCo will support class teachers and offer advice re suitable homework and will liaise with Teaching Assistants regarding work given as part of a child’s IEP.

Children identified within the school as 'able pupils' will be given homework appropriate to their needs and strengths. They may also be given individual extension tasks to support their learning.

Some children may be asked to work on specific targeted interventions by the SENCo, which require support from home to complete the activities. If children are unable to complete these activities at home then the SENCo may have to review the suitability of the intervention.