



The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools



Homework Statement

**School Mission Statement
Federation of The Downs and Northbourne
CEP Schools**

Our mission is to create a school in which every member feels valued, irrespective of their race, gender or disability and where the development of the whole child is paramount.

We expect high standards from all, and try to provide the maximum opportunities for every member to fulfil their individual potential. Our Christian ethos encompasses tolerance and cultural diversity which will enable us to embrace the challenges of our world.

We strive to make our learning and working environment a safe, but vibrant and stimulating place from which children can begin their journey of lifelong learning.

Last Review Date: Apr 2016	Next Review Date:			
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Homework Review

Pupils, parents and staff have had an opportunity to reflect on and respond to questionnaires about homework (Term 3 2015) and not surprisingly there is a wide variety of feelings and thoughts on homework.

We recognise that many of the out of school clubs and activities that children undertake play an important part in their overall development as does quality time with their families. Yet we also recognise that homework can support and expand their learning, linking home and school together. As a result of the responses to questionnaires we have reviewed our homework policy.

Policy Statement:

Homework helps your child to:

- Learn how to organise and manage their time
- Take more responsibility for their learning
- Practise and build on what has been learnt in school
- Extend and promote learning outside of the school day
- Learn to work independently and collaboratively
- Develop confidence to deal with frustrations, overcome difficulties and solve problems

With this in mind every child will be expected to:

- Read daily – little and often; discussed; should be enjoyable, shared and purposeful
- Take home a library book weekly
- Learn the high frequency words for their year group
- Learn their times tables – teachers will inform you of which ones are appropriate for age group
- Develop their personal organisational skills – PE kit/uniform/contact book (ready for school)

In addition to this -

Younger children may be asked to:

- Learn individual letters and words
- Complete a task related to the book they are reading
- Play a game to support speaking and listening, reading and maths
- Be asked to find out something related to the terms topic or bring in something from home
- Be encouraged to attend Maths Library

Older children may be asked to:

- Complete a task related to their English learning
- Complete a task related to their maths learning
- Complete a task related to a specific learning need (i.e handwriting practice, spellings, HFW)
- Undertake a research project – this may take the place of other homework and be over a longer period of time
- Be asked to find out something related to the terms topic or bring in something from home
- Be encouraged to attend Maths Library

There is recognition that the quantity of homework increases as children approach years 5 and 6. With the exception of daily expectations additional homework will be set on a Thursday and, unless otherwise stated, will be due in on Tuesday the following week.

All teachers will make reasonable adjustments to the homework activities to ensure every child can access it regardless of their individual learning needs or difficulties. It would be helpful to teachers if you could indicate any significant problems that your child encounters with their homework so that additional support can be provided in school.

Homework will be marked according to the criteria set by the class teacher for that specific piece of work.

We recognise that there are times when parents wish their child to complete additional homework, beyond what has been set by the class teachers. We are currently looking at creating a list of activities for each year groups that children and families can do over the year. These will be designed to support the development of your child's key skills in speaking and listening, reading, writing, and maths but also give them experience of the wider world.

In the meantime, great learning opportunities can arise from everyday real life experiences and allow class learning to be consolidated and extended:

- Reading signs and labels
- Following a recipe or set of instructions
- Writing a shopping list
- Planning a menu and increasing quantities according to the number of guests
- Working out the change from shopping
- Identifying shapes and colours
- Playing board games
- Sharing out gifts/sweets/prizes/pocket money

These are just a few examples and the children won't even know they are doing work at home.