

Homework Policy

Queensmead Primary Academy Homework Policy promotes learning at home as an essential part of good education. Homework not only reinforces classroom learning, it also helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning. Whilst we recognise that homework is an important component of the teaching and learning process, we also recognise that it is important for children to have time for play, leisure and physical activities outside of school. We aim to set homework which consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.

The Benefits of Homework

We believe that homework is valuable because it:

- ✓ Provides an important link between home and school
- ✓ Allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class
- ✓ Teaches children how to plan and organise their time
- ✓ Establishes good habits of study, concentration and self-discipline
- ✓ Develops children's research skills
- ✓ Provides an opportunity for parents to support their children and to gain an increased understanding of the work, which they are doing in school.

Implementation

We believe that learning is a shared responsibility between children, parents and staff. In order to achieve this goal, we will work together with parents and carers as a partnership, expanding the curriculum, extending it to the home and building on experiences shared outside school.

School

We will ensure that homework is:

- ✓ Planned as an integral part of the curriculum
- ✓ Appropriate to the age and ability of the children
- ✓ Purposeful, structured and wide ranging
- ✓ Clearly explained to the children and expectations with regards presentation are made clear
- ✓ Collected in and marked or stamped on a regular basis.
- ✓ Enjoyable and manageable

Home

Parents/Carers can help to support their child in completing their homework tasks by:

- ✓ Taking an active interest
- ✓ Providing support and encouragement
- ✓ Ensuring that time is set aside to complete the tasks
- ✓ Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their child's approach to it
- ✓ Alerting the school to any changes in their child's circumstances which may affect the completion of homework tasks

- ✓ Ensuring that homework is handed in on time

Queensmead Recommendations

Daily recommended reading of between 10-15 minutes which is incorporated into our homework guidelines. The recommendations for the complete homework package are:

Year 1 and 2	1 hour per week.
Year 3	1.5 hours per week.
Year 4 and 5	2 hours per week
Year 6	2.5 hours per week.

All homework will reflect what the children are currently learning in class and a standard approach will be adopted in both Key Stage 1 and in Key Stage 2. In order to ensure a balance between out of school activities and homework, reasonable time will be given for children to complete the task and hand it in on time. This is made clear to parents and children via the class newsletters.

Parents should try to support their child, but if the homework is extending beyond the guidance regularly, there may be a problem of which we would like to offer help and support. Parents should contact the class teachers to seek the relevant guidance and support with homework.

General guidance

- Each child is expected to read at home, ideally with their parents/carers or siblings in the Foundation Stage and Years 1 - 3 and then more on their own as they get older. We suggest at least 5 minutes a day in Early Years, moving to at least 10 minutes by Year 2 and up to at least 30 minutes by Year 6. For F2 and KS1, pupils take home a phonically decodable book alongside another reading book.
- In KS1+2, each child will practise their times tables. The Times Tables Rockstars/Numbots online platform supports children to learn rapid recall of times tables.
- Purple Mash – the school online platform may be used by teachers to set homework to be handed in electronically.
- Queensmead Quests -a sheet of homework tasks will also be provided to pupils from Y1-6 related to the half termly topic. Pupils may attempt as many or as few pieces as they wish and bring them to school to be celebrated. House Points can be awarded for each completed piece of Queensmead Quests homework.

The Foundation Stage

Generally, teachers will not set formal homework in the Foundation Stage. We recognise that all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop a wide range of knowledge and skills including literacy, numeracy and problem solving. Activities that we encourage include:

- ✓ Shopping
- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Listening to stories, songs and rhymes



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- ✓ Reading together and sharing books
- ✓ Library visits
- ✓ Visits
- ✓ Collecting, counting and sorting items

All children in the Foundation Stage are encouraged to choose a real book each week using our 'book swap' system: the book is taken home and shared with an adult. This helps to get children interested in stories, books and reading and sets good homework routines for when the children are older.

The Foundation Stage develops and celebrates the development of independent skills at home through the 'Wow Vouchers' system – a useful link between school and home to share the pupil's progress towards the early learning goals.

Rewarding Homework

Children will be praised and rewarded for completing their homework and bringing it back on time. House points will be given for completed tasks.

Supervised, in- school opportunities to attempt homework may be offered to children who wish to complete tasks set. A 'Homework Club' will be offered between 12.50-1.20pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Y6 Study Room.