



Orchard Learning Trust

Homework Policy - January 2018

Together We Inspire Enjoy Achieve

“Homework is an important extension of classroom learning. It helps to cement the ideas that children learn at school (or should be learning!), helping things sink in further and expanding their knowledge.

The complexity and amount of homework that needs to be carried out obviously increases considerably as children progress through school. The amount of homework given to primary aged children varies, but they are likely to get some on a regular basis. Getting used to doing homework from an early age will definitely be an advantage, as children are more likely to continue doing so as they progress through their school years.” Early Childhood Education Website

Statement of Intent

Godmanchester Bridge Academy believes there is an advantage in children spending regular periods of time, initially quite short, on different learning activities that support the work they do in class.

Homework refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Homework need not, get in the way of other activities which children may do after school such as sport, music and clubs of all kinds. Planning a balance of activity and commitment at home is important

Purpose of Homework

The purpose of homework is to:

- Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school. This is outlined in the home-school agreement.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- Exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.
- Extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of KS3.

The purposes of homework change as children get older. For children in Foundation and KS1, developing a partnership with parents or carers and involving them actively in children's learning is the key purpose.

In KS2 homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning. Children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to study on their own. In Y6 homework will cover a range of tasks and curriculum content. This will benefit their learning and assist with the transition to Y7.

Homework Content

The main focus of homework will be English and Maths. However, home learning tasks will be set linked to the thematic curriculum being studied that term. Homework for younger children will involve parents and carers in joint activities. Reading will be an important focus throughout the school, be it independent reading, sharing or listening.

Older children will be given homework, increasing in its demands. This will be differentiated where appropriate to take account of individual pupil's needs and will include:

- Topic themed individual learning tasks
- Finding out information
- Reading in preparation for lessons
- Preparing oral presentations
- More traditional writing assignments.

If needed, opportunities for older children to complete homework will be given at break and lunch times.

Time Allocation

Foundation Stage	Short daily activity with parent/carer.
Year 1	Daily reading + 30 minutes per week
Year 2	Daily reading + 1 hour per week
Year 3 and 4	Daily reading + 2 hours per week.
Year 5 and 6	Daily Reading + 2.5 hours per week.

Special Educational Need

Care will be taken setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special needs.

Tasks will:

- Have a clear focus and time guide
- Give plenty of opportunity for pupils to succeed
- Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary
- Be varied and not only written assignments
- Be manageable for teachers

The purposes of homework apply equally to pupils with SEN.

Children who are receiving specific reading interventions, may have daily reading activities to reinforce work completed in school sessions.

Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers should:

- Provide a suitable place for homework
- Value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Encourage and praise pupils during and on completion
- Become actively involve with activities set for young children
- Encourage presentation and handwriting
- Provide appropriate equipment

Homework Schedule

Foundation Stage

- Reading book to share with an adult - 2 books over the week.
- Children have reading folders that are sent home with reading books.

- Some children may be sent home with flash cards and writing activities.
- The routine of a book-bag is encouraged. Children to keep their reading zip files in their book bags so that reading and phonics activities can be carried out at home and in school time
- From Spring 1 onwards, weekly spellings sent home (in line with phonics teaching).
- From Spring 1 onwards, Maths activities sent home regularly in spelling homework books as an alternative to literacy work

KS1

- Daily reading
- Weekly maths tasks set on Mathletics
- Spellings
- Home Learning Tasks

KS2

- Daily reading
- Weekly maths tasks set on Mathletics
- Spellings
- Home Learning Tasks

Role of the School

The school will:

- Include homework as part of the wider learning and assessment process
- Carefully plan tasks to assist learning progression
- Regularly set, manage and mark homework consistently

- Ensure all children, parents or carers are made aware of homework expectations through signs, newsletters and meetings
- Involve parents and carers as partners in the learning process
- Have high expectations of pupils in completing homework
- Provide opportunities for pupils to present their home learning tasks

Communication

Godmanchester Bridge Academy's homework policy will be communicated through:

- School Website
- Parent prospectus
- The home – school agreement

Policy Details	Date	Signature and Name
Policy approved by Senior Management:	Jan 2018	Claire Wood
Policy approved by Senior Governor	Jan 2018	Caroline Crowther Light
Date of next review:	Jan 2020	

Policy Section: Section 1B – School Management Policies (Pupils)

Policy reference: GBA 1B/ 06 HW