



Beech Hill School **Homework Policy**

At Beech Hill, we believe that children learn best when parents work together in partnership with the school. This policy takes into account guidance given by the government on the amount and nature of homework for young children. Whilst it is recognised that homework if properly designed and supported can have considerable benefit to children, it is not compulsory and will not be set as a punishment. The policy has been agreed by the staff, parents and the Governing body and will be reviewed annually.

The purpose of homework

Wherever possible homework for children should be a joint activity and should seek to:

- show the child that both home and school are interested in learning;
- ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout school
- demonstrate to the child that learning does not only take place in school;
- extend and reinforce learning through consolidation and revision
- raise individual achievement
- promote parental understanding and home support for children's learning
- provide experiences that are different from those experienced in school but which encourage them to observe, discuss and analyse;
- develop self confidence by gaining the approval of parents and carers.
- encourage children to develop independent study strategies

The Role of Parents and Carers

At Beech Hill School, we are committed to involving parents in their child's learning, This policy and the Home/School agreement outline the ways in which parents can support and enhance their children's education at home. The following are some guidelines, which may prove useful when working with children at home.

- Provide time and a quiet place in which the child can do their homework,
- Encourage the child to do the work at the same time each day so that a routine is established
- Encourage children and praise them when they complete their homework.
- Contact the classteacher or write a note in their pupil planner (KS2 only) for the teacher explaining they found the work difficult.
- Attend Parents' Evenings and meetings.

The nature and amount of homework:

We follow the government guidelines for homework. The emphasis is on how homework helps them to learn, rather than whether it takes a certain amount of time. The guidelines for primary school children are:

Year 1 and 2 : one hour per week

Year 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week

Year 5 and 6 : 30 minutes per day.

Our expectations for homework are as follows:

Nursery - 15 minutes per week

Reception - 10 minutes practise every evening

'Under expectations for homework are as follows:'

Nursery - reading a library - once a week

weekly phonics sheet/song

half termly topic sheet to share play ideas to parents

Reception: library book - changed weekly banded reading book - changed daily if you wish (read with minimum of twice weekly)

Weekly phonics sheet

Literacy and Maths - information about focus for the topic and ideas for activities to do at home.

Year 1 and 2

Reading 10 minutes practice every evening

Spelling 15 minutes practice

Maths 1 set task weekly (this may be practical or internet based), e.g. practice on number bonds to 10 and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s

Year 3 and 4

Reading 20 minutes practice every evening

Spelling 5-10 minutes practice everyday

Maths 1 set task weekly (this may be practical or internet based)

Year 5 and 6

Reading 20 minutes practice every evening

Spelling 10 minutes practice

Maths 1 set task weekly (this may be practical or internet based) and learning multiplication tables

Learning Logs

A learning log will be sent home on a regular basis for children to carry out their own research. Parents are encouraged to support their child with completing this project by visiting the local library or finding information on the internet.

The school will publish a list of general activities, which pupils can engage in at home and which are appropriate for the age of the child. We will also identify specific tasks and activities, which may enrich or support particular activities planned each half term. All homework activities should be related to work that the children are doing at school. It should not always be written work. Children will be given at least a weekend to complete their homework.

It is important particularly with younger children to establish and develop reading and listening skills.

At the beginning of each half term information will be sent to parents informing them of the work to be covered and suggesting activities they could do at home to help their child to improve their background knowledge.

The children should have sufficient time to undertake homework activities without too much intrusion to their family activities.

Recognising pupil's effort

It is important that the children's efforts are supported and praised both at home and in school.

We will recognise pupil's work by:

- 1) Providing and maintaining a reading record of each child;
- 2) Sharing work done at home with the class and in assemblies;
- 3) Praising and rewarding pupils for their efforts using our reward system.

Use of ICT

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed.

There are many websites containing highly educational materials which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning.

VLE

Homework will be posted on the VLE for children to complete. Children who do not have access to internet at home will be given the opportunity to complete their homework in school.

Use of Seesaw

Some teachers and year groups may use Seesaw to share homework and pupils' work with parents (See Appendix 1).

Monitoring Homework

The nature and frequency of homework will be monitored on a termly basis. The efficiency and effectiveness of the homework policy will be monitored on a regular basis by the Senior Leadership Team through planning scrutinies, pupil and parental interviews and questionnaires.

Holiday Homework

During the holiday a reasonable amount of homework will be given allowing the children to spend quality time with their families and engage in other activities such as our Family Challenge.

1 week holiday

2 pieces of maths- practise or revision of the previous work covered (10-15 minutes task)
1 learning log project
Reading book

2 weeks holiday

3 pieces of maths work- practise or revision of previous work covered (10-15 minutes task)
1 learning log
Reading book /reading activity

In addition optional homework will be given to pupils whose parents request it. Teachers are not expected to mark this work.

Homework Club

Homework clubs are run on a Friday afternoon for all year groups and children are able to access support from adults and their peers during these sessions to help them complete their homework.

Informing parents and carers about the homework policy

The school will use Newsletters and Parents' meetings to inform parents and carers about the school's homework policy to secure their involvement. Parents' evenings will be used to promote this partnership and obtain feedback.

Although homework is not compulsory, if homework is not completed on a regular basis then parents of the children concerned will be informed and asked to come in to school to discuss this matter. If the teacher is still concerned about the child's response to homework then the matter will be referred to the head teacher.

Reviewing the Policy

The Head teacher will meet with the staff annually to review and update this policy. The results of the review will be presented to the governing body as part of the Head teacher's report.

Last review – 29/9/18

Appendix 1

Seesaw is a student-driven digital portfolio that empowers students to independently document what they are learning at school.

FEATURES:

Easily Capture Student Learning in Any Form

- Students can use photos, videos, drawings, text notes, links to show what they know.
- When students add to their Seesaw journal, content is uploaded, organized by student, and immediately accessible to teachers from any device.
- Teachers can browse work from the entire class or for a single student. Optionally, use folders to organize work by subject area or project.
- Teachers can flag items for follow up or to review at parent-teacher conferences.

Secure sign in

- Younger learners or classrooms with shared devices can sign in with a QR code.

Encourage Reflection and Provide an Authentic Audience

- Seesaw helps capture the learning process not just the end result. Students can use Seesaw's built-in audio recording and drawing tools to reflect on what they've learned or explain how they got their answer.
- Seesaw gives students an authentic audience of their peers and parents, encouraging better work and real feedback. Teachers can control who can see what, and what feedback options are available, such as likes and comments.

Strengthen Connections Between School and Home

- Parents can be invited to view updates to their child's Seesaw journal.