

Homework Policy

Beech Hill School



Approved by: Sara Cockroft

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Last reviewed on: July 2024

Next review due by: July 2025

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 board and will be reviewed annually.

Seesaw will be the main platform for communicating homework with parents. Not only does this promote a 'blended learning' approach but it also ensures that, as a school, we are moving towards being 'paperless'. Where parents are unable to access Seesaw, paper copies of the homework will be sent.

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;
- consolidate and reinforce basic skills and knowledge;
- 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 outlines 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 class teacher via Seesaw or send in a note 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 consensus for primary school children is as follows:

Nursery/Reception: 30 - 45 minutes per week
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:

EYFS

Focus on information linked to the current topic and ideas for activities to do at home.

Nursery

Sharing a book – every evening

Weekly phonics activity (this may be practical or Seesaw based)

Half termly topic sheet to share play ideas with parents

Reception

Reading - 5 minutes practice every evening

Phonics - Weekly differentiated phonics practice

Maths – Weekly task/ work sheet

Half termly topic sheet to share play ideas with parents

Year 1 and 2

Reading/Phonics 5 -10 minutes practice daily

Spelling 5 minutes practice daily

Maths 1 set task weekly- This will be around basic skills, mental maths or number bonds

Year 3 and 4

Reading 10 minutes practice every evening

Spelling 5 minutes practice everyday

Maths 1 set task weekly - This will be around basic skills, mental maths or Multiplication tables in readiness for the multiplication tables check.

Year 5 and 6

Reading 20 minutes practice every evening – this may include Reading Plus

Spelling 10 minutes practice

Maths 1 set task weekly -This will be around basic skills, mental maths or multiplication tables

Seesaw

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 and links to show what they know.
- When students add to their Seesaw journal, content is uploaded, organised by the student and immediately accessible to teachers from any device.
- Teachers can browse work from the entire class or for a single student. Folders are used to organise work by subject area.
- Teachers can flag items for follow up or to review at parents' evenings.

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 have learnt 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.

Homework Menus and Learning Logs

A homework menu and learning log to record homework menu homework, will be sent home at the start of a new half term.

Homework menus will be available on Seesaw, and the school's website, for children to complete over each half term.

The homework menu will have tasks set into 3 categories:

- The **'Must'** tasks must be completed and will be checked weekly by your teacher.
- The **'Would be good'** tasks are tasks that your teacher would like to see completed.
- The **'Would be great'** tasks are an opportunity to present your learning in a creative way.

Parents are encouraged to support children to complete these tasks over the half term.

It is extremely important that the **'Must tasks'** are completed daily or as often as possible to aid your child's progress in maths and English.

The **'would be good if'** tasks and **'would be great tasks'** are designed to enrich, or support activities planned each half term. All homework activities should be related to work that the children are doing at school. Children will be given the full half term to complete these tasks. These can be done in the child's learning log, on Seesaw or in a creative way.

It is important particularly with younger children to establish and develop reading and listening skills. The children should have sufficient time to undertake homework activities without too much intrusion to their family activities.

Must Knows

At the start of every new half term, three documents called 'Must Knows' will be shared via Seesaw and on the school website for maths, science and topic. You may also see yearly ones for subjects such as art, music, French, RE, DT, PE and spelling, grammar and punctuation. These documents contain the essential knowledge that children will need to know as part of the new unit they will be studying in class. These Must Knows are designed to be used at home by parents to help children learn the information contained within them. We want every pupil to be able to recall the facts given on the sheet but also to research further into the different bits of information provided.

Recognising pupils' effort

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

We will recognise pupils' 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.

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 surveys.

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)
Reading book/reading activity

2 weeks holiday

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

Summer holiday

Children will be required to complete the Summer Holiday Homework Menu which will consist of consolidating the previous years' skills of spelling and numeracy as well as reading as regularly as possible. There are some optional tasks to research their new class country and complete the family challenge.

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

We understand that, from time to time, it may be difficult for homework to be completed. During term time, we will offer support during the school day and this may be at a play time. For

homework not completed or not fully completed over holiday periods, children will be given extra time at home to complete this.

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 Seesaw 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 – July 2024.