



# Home Learning Policy

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## **Home Learning Policy**

At Barton Hill we value every member of our school community and our aim is to ensure 'No Child is Left Behind', which is for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need.

To achieve this all learners, staff, parents and governors will work together to promote our **core values** of Respect, Resilience, Excellence, Success, Pride, Equality, Compassion and Tenacity

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

### **Rationale for homework**

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.

We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

### **Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

### **Types of homework**

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

**In Early Years/ Foundation Stage** We ask that parents listen to their children read at least three times a week. We also believe that parents should read books to their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers. There will also be some phonics work and sometimes some maths work.

**Year 1/Year 2:** We ask parents to support their child through reading daily for about fifteen minutes. (Remember this can include sharing books and you reading to your child.) In addition, children will be given a phonics, maths and English activity. They may also have a Theme activity.

We also encourage parents to help with Science vocabulary and to discuss their school learning.

Practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money and familiarising children with measures are of great value.

Sometimes, homework is for children to talk about a Theme at home prior to studying it in school. When we ask children to study a Theme, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet.

We encourage parents to spend free time with their children on enjoyable sharing activities, for example cooking, painting and dressing up.

**Years 3-6,** We continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined above, including the reading activities specified but we expect them to do more tasks independently. Children will have one piece of Maths work and one English based task every week; there may also be homework related to Theme or Science.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

### **Inclusion and homework**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

### **The role of parents and carers**

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them on at least three occasions during each week. If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

#### **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.

#### **Review**

The governing body reviews this policy every three years. The governors may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Next Review Date:**