



Homework Policy

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Kenmore Park Juniors we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one to one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key skills;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Kenmore Park Junior School is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents. Children may be asked to complete homework tasks during play/break times.

Our routines and expectations

All classes give out weekly homework - the newsletters we send out from each year group detail when homework is due to be given out and when it is due in.

The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or an activity already familiar to your child.

There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

The class teacher may mark, give individual feedback to pupils or make group/collective comments about how children performed in the set tasks. We do not insist that each piece of work is marked as this can have a negative impact the time staff have to plan and prepare class work.

The tasks set will not always need to be handed in; there are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

Broadly speaking these are current expectations:

That the amount of homework increases as the pupils get older - there are no longer set hours/time limits from the DfE.

That as a minimum pupils will read regularly with an adult at home and their reading diary completed/signed by an adult.

That all homework is checked to ensure the child has tried their best in each activity.

That use is made of BugClub/Mathletics or other online resources as recommended by the school. We do not encourage pupils completing these activities on their own as we are aware of issues relating to e-safety.

Occasionally extended projects running for a few weeks will be set.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen.

As far as possible, homework will be related to class topics. This is important as it helps parents to know more about what is going on in class and to support enthusiasm for learning. Parents might, for example, find themselves supporting research of Egyptian Gods, finding out about grandparents' experience of school or measuring objects around the home. This also means that each child can pursue a set task at their own level of ability.

Pupils may receive homework tasks from staff other than their class teacher in order to support their learning, e.g. Saturday School enrolment.

Parents Requests for additional homework

If you take leave during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary or invest in English/Maths books appropriate for the age and ability of the child.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

The school is keen to support parents who may be considering applying to grammar schools and we are happy to advise. We are not able to recommend specific schools or tutors/tuition classes.

If you still have concerns, please contact the class teacher in the first instance.

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Approved by GB: 10/2/16.