

Lower Halstow School Homework Policy

RATIONALE

This document has been written to inform governors and parents of the school's policy on Homework. It is important to stress that at Lower Halstow we believe strongly that homework should not be too onerous or time consuming. All children should take part in other activities with family and friends outside school hours in order to become well developed, confident, articulate people. Through this policy we are striving to achieve a balanced approach to the development of our children and academic excellence.

AIMS

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- To ensure progression towards independence
- To extend learning
- To develop confidence and self discipline needed for independent study in preparation for secondary education
- To strengthen home/school partnership

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- To ensure clear understanding of expectations
- To take account of individual needs of pupils
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to share learning experiences

METHODS

The quantity and type of homework set will change as pupils progress through the school to take account of their emotional, physical and academic development.

Every pupil will be expected to take part in a daily reading activity either with a parent or independently.

In addition other homework activities may include:-

- Learning tables
- Learning spellings
- Playing games
- Personal research
- Speaking and listening activities
- Finding out information
- Written tasks
- Preparing presentations
- Making and doing activities

Occasionally class work may be sent home to be completed.

Homework will be set by the class teacher as indicated on the timetable (Appendix 1).

All work set will be handed in to the teacher at the agreed time for marking. Work not completed as requested may need to be finished during break times and lunchtimes or at ICT or Homework Club at the teacher's discretion.

Homework set will be recorded in pupils' homework diaries. Parents are asked to comment in diaries.

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ICT/HOMEWORK CLUB (ECM: 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)

There will be an opportunity for pupils who wish to work in a quiet, supervised environment with access to computers. Pupils will be expected to work independently on homework tasks set. Pupils who do not hand their homework in on time will be expected to attend Homework Club in order to complete the work.

CONTINUITY AND PROGRESSION

Homework will complement work in school and the teacher will ensure that there is continuity and progression. By developing this policy as a whole school we hope to ensure clear, consistent and purposeful scheduling of working.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

All work will be marked and teachers will note achievement in their Assessment files. Parent comments will also be noted and where appropriate the teacher will discuss any issues that arise.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils will have equal access to homework opportunities regardless of gender, race or ability. Where there are mixed age classes it is important that teacher's liaise to ensure that homework is set for and accessed by particular age groups in more than one class.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Pupils with Additional Educational Needs will have access to homework opportunities. Homework set will take account, through personalised learning, of pupils with special educational needs and those who are gifted.

RESOURCES

Teachers will ensure that pupils have all the necessary resources to complete the work set. In some cases it may require parents and pupils to visit local libraries.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The class teacher will:-

- Set homework
- Ensure it is appropriate
- Allow sufficient time for completion
- Record that work is completed
- Mark homework
- Ensure balance, continuity and progression
- Communicate expectations of task as clearly as possible to pupils and parents
- Demonstrate homework is valued through discussion and display

Parents will:-

- Check homework diaries and contact book and send in regularly
- Ensure homework is completed on time and presented neatly; a sharp pencil or handwriting pen should be used for written work
- Communicate difficulties to the class teacher
- Endeavour to support pupils in the activities

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Pupils will:-

- Keep homework diaries up to date
- Complete work set and give it in on time to the standard expected
- Ask teachers and parents for help when necessary

The Head teacher will:-

- Monitor the Homework policy
- Update and modify the requirements of the policy when necessary
- Inform parents and governors of the progress of the initiative

SMSC/PSHE AND CITIZENSHIP

Every opportunity will be exploited through Homework in order to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each pupil. Alongside these, where possible, Homework will be used to develop P.S.H.E. and Citizenship.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

The school ensures that, where appropriate, the 5 key points of “Every Child Matters” are considered in the Homework Policy. Every opportunity will be taken to ensure that the children:-

- 5.1 Stay Healthy
- 5.2 Stay Safe
- 5.3 Enjoy and Achieve
- 5.4 Make a positive contribution
- 5.5 Achieve Economic Well being

DDA/SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (seeDDA Equality Scheme/SEN Policy)

All pupils will have equal access to Homework opportunities regardless of gender, race or ability. Where necessary the school will provide appropriate resources to ensure that all pupils can participate during these aspects of the session. To support pupils with physical, motor or cognitive disabilities the use of a Teacher, TA or other adult will be made available.

TIME ALLOCATION

The amount of homework set has been developed with regard to the DfEE consultation document “Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools – April 1998”. Consultation has also taken place between staff, parents and governors. A timetable of homework is included (Appendix 1). This timetable may change slightly at varying times throughout the school year to take account of annual events.

REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed as indicated on the School Improvement Plan.

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APPENDIX 1

**TIMETABLE OF HOMEWORK AT LOWER HALSTOW
SCHOOL**

	Reading	Other Activity
Foundation Stage	10 minutes sharing a book with an adult - daily	Weekly task – Maths or English activity – 20 minutes in total to be set weekly. Daily Sound of the Week task – 5 minutes
Year 1 & 2	20 minutes reading to an adult, sharing a book and learning key words - daily	Weekly task – maths based activity and spellings – 30 minutes in total to be set weekly. Spellings - sound patterns, definitions & use in the classroom Occasional topic based research
Lower Key Stage 2	20 minutes reading to self and an adult, answering questions on the story and predicting what will happen next - daily	Weekly task – maths based activity, tables and spellings (sound patterns, definitions & use in the classroom) 45 minutes in total to be set every week Occasional topic based activities – 30 minutes
Upper Key Stage 2	20 minutes reading to self with some reading aloud, answering questions on story line, character development and predicting - daily	Weekly task - maths based activity, tables, spellings (sound patterns, definitions & use in the classroom) and occasional science – 1 hour in total to be set every week. Occasional topic research work.