

TWEEDDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR

HOMEWORK

Review of the Policy

This policy provides guidance on teaching and learning at Tweeddale Primary School. It reflects the views of teaching staff and was agreed by the governing body on:

16th January 2019

The policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher annually and by the governing body in Spring 2022 or earlier if required. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the staff and will be monitored by the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and co-ordinator.

Signed.....
Headteacher

Date.....

Signed.....
Chair of Governors

Date.....

Tweeddale Primary School 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 Tweeddale 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 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 facts;
- 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, Tweeddale 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.

Our routines and expectations

All classes give out weekly homework on a Wednesday. If it is a piece that needs handing in, it is expected to be returned by the following Monday.

It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.

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

In Y2-Y6 each child has a homework book and the majority of tasks are kept in there. Children will receive feedback on their work from their class teacher or LSA. This may be verbally or through written marking, depending on the homework completed. This should happen each week.

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:

Nursery – sharing books and communicating with school

Reception – daily reading, learning key words and engaging with a topic related task to be done alongside your child on occasion

Year 1 – daily reading, weekly spellings and occasional topic related homework

Year 2 – daily reading, weekly times tables (PiXI app), spellings and a weekly topic-based homework

Years 3, 4 and 5 – daily reading, weekly times tables (PiXI app), spellings and a longer weekly topic task

Year 6 - daily reading, weekly times tables (PiXI app), spellings and 2 longer tasks each week - English/topic and maths. Occasionally extended projects running for a few weeks will be set.

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

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.

In Key Stage 1 school staff manage the sticking in of sheets and instructions initially. We ask children and parents in Years 3 to 6 to take responsibility for sticking sheets in the book and keeping the book tidy.

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.

It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial. Optional activities, such as Active Movement homework, may be given. However, children are expected to read (either books of their own or from the library etc) during the school holidays.

Our additional needs teachers may send specific tasks home to support the learning of the children they support. Again, this will be discussed with parents.

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.

If you still have concerns, please talk with Andy Powell, the Deputy Headteacher (Learning).