

**Homework**

**Policy**

**Introduction**

This policy was written after consultation with parents and staff at Henllys Church in Wales School. The analysis of a recent parental homework questionnaire can be found in Appendix 1.

**Welsh Government Guidelines**

In November 2016, the Welsh Government launched their ‘Education Begins at Home’ campaign stating that ‘*The home environment is the single biggest factor in educational attainment. By creating an environment that values education and supports a child’s learning, parents are giving their child a significant head start in life.’*

**How can you support your child’s learning?**

Parental involvement is vitally important in helping children to learn. You can talk to the school about how to help your child’s development and learning by getting actively involved, not just at home but in the garden, in the park and at the shops. Schools can also work together with families to help them support their children’s learning. Ideas for learning together at home are as follows:

• Spending time reading with your child, even just 10 minutes a day, can make a real difference. Choose reading material that they enjoy such as books, magazines, websites, packaging and leaflets – any text, anywhere.

• Look for opportunities in daily life to use numbers, whether it’s at the shops, talking about the football scores, looking up the times of favourite TV programmes in the TV guide or using the bus or train timetable to plan a trip.

• Encourage your child to write and design things for a range of different purposes such as invitations, thank-you notes, e-mails, shopping or ‘to do’ lists. Talk about the text, words and numbers that you see around you

• Encourage your child to talk about mathematical concepts such as how much, how big and how many.

• Look for shapes and patterns in everyday objects and the world around you.

• Talk about and involve your child in everyday tasks that involve literacy and numeracy – cooking, playing or watching sports, paying for the shopping, planning a trip or playing a board game with the family or with friends.

• Visit museums and galleries, if you have the chance, and use your local library where you’ll find a lot of information, support, computer access, and activities and events.

**Aims of the Policy**

1. To ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.
2. Ensure progression towards independence.
3. To meet the needs of individual pupils.
4. To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work together to extend, support and reinforce the learning experiences offered to pupils.

**Type of Homework**

At Henllys Church in Wales School, we strongly believe that **daily** reading to or with parents or carers is vital to develop reading skills at all ages.

**Foundation Phase homework will include:**

* Weekly spellings/high frequency word lists to learn.
* Reading books.
* Tricky maths concepts.
* Topic based homework.
* R.E. homework.
* I.C.T. activities.

**Key Stage 2 homework will include:**

* Weekly spelling lists and times tables to learn.
* Reading books.
* Comprehension tasks (one every half term).
* Tricky maths concepts.
* Topic based homework.
* R.E. homework.
* I.C.T. activities.

**Amount of Homework**

* All pupils will be given reading books, spellings/word lists and times tables to learn (7-11 years only) on a weekly basis.
* All pupils will be given **one** homework task per week based on the above list.

N.B. Some Additional Learning Needs children may get extra homework linked to their Individual Education Plan.

**Role of Parents/Carers in Supporting Homework**

Parents/carers should aim to:

1. Provide a suitable place in which children can complete their homework.
2. Value homework and support the school in explaining its importance.
3. Encourage children to complete their homework on time.
4. Check that homework is correct and praise children when it has been completed.
5. Be actively involved in homework activities with children.

**Role of Teachers**

1. Set the type and amount of homework agreed in this policy.
2. Set homework at an appropriate level for all pupils.
3. Reward children for completing homework tasks (dojos, certificates, stickers etc.)
4. Encourage all pupils to complete any homework that is set.

**Monitoring and Evaluating this Policy**

This policy will be monitored and evaluated by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Governing Body.

Signed…………H.C. Robbins (Chair of Governors) Date………18th October 2018…..

Signed………J. Bates (Executive Headteacher) Date……18th October 2018…..

**Appendix 1**

**Analysis of Homework Questionnaires**

We had 90 responses to our recent questionnaire about homework and the results are listed in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Responses** |
| Do you think homework is important and why? | **Most parents (90%) thought it was important for their child to have regular homework.** |
| Relevant Comments:  **It supports work carried out in the classroom.**  **It prepares pupils for secondary school.**  **It reinforces the learning that has taken place in school.**  **It enables parents to help and support their child.** | |
| Are you happy with the amount of homework your child receives? | **Many parents (81%) were happy with the amount of homework received.** |
| If not, how much homework do you think they should have? | **A few parents thought there was too much or too little homework.** |
| How much time do you spend working with your child on homework?  **On average parents spend between 30 and 90 minutes on homework per week.** | |
| Are you happy with the kind of homework your child receives? | **Many parents (81%) were happy with the kind of homework received.** |
| If not, what would you like to change?  **Homework needs to be relevant to what the children are learning in class. It also needs to be at the correct level or ability.** | |
| Do you think it’s important for your child to receive weekly spellings to learn? | **Most parents (90%) thought it was important for their child to receive weekly spellings to learn.** |
| Do you think it’s important for your child to receive weekly times tables to learn? | **Most parents (90%) thought it was important for their child to receive weekly times tables to learn.** |
| Do you give your child any additional homework apart from what is sent home from school? | **Around half of parents (56%) give their child additional work at home.** |
| If yes what? **Extra reading, educational activities, workbooks and maths tutors.** | |
| Where does your child do their homework? **Most children (90%) do their homework at the dining room or kitchen table.** | |
| Do you check your child’s homework? | **Nearly all parents (97%) check their child’s homework.** |
| Does your child have access to a computer to do their homework? | **Nearly all children (97%) have access to a computer at home.** |
| What hobbies/activities does your child do outside school?  **Nearly all pupils (96%) are given the opportunity to do a broad range of activities outside school including:**  **Sports clubs (football, rugby, tennis, martial arts, dance, swimming etc.) musical instruments, reading, Brownies, Cubs/Scouts, drama, Sea Cadets and playing computer games.** | |
| Do you feel your child has enough time to do their homework? | **Many parents (84%) feel that their child has enough time to do their homework.** |
| Any other comments:  **A few parents would like a full week to complete homework i.e. either Monday to Monday or Friday to Friday.**  **A few parents feel that a ‘making things’ homework is too time consuming.**  **A few parents think that homework shouldn’t encroach on family time.**  **A few parents wanted the school to avoid short deadlines for homework.**  **A few parents felt strongly that homework should NOT be set during the school holidays.**  **A few parents thought that more maths homework should be set.**  **One parent suggested that the school should set up a homework club.** | |