



# **Homework Policy**

## **Introduction**

This policy was written after consultation with parents, pupil and staff at Henllys Church in Wales School. The analysis of recent homework questionnaires can be found in Appendix 1 and 2.

## **Welsh Government Guidelines**

There are no statutory requirements relating to homework in Wales. However, we feel that homework is a core part of successful education and supports the pupils' ability to learn in different contexts.

## **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.
- As well as hearing your child read, we also encourage you to read to your children. This enables them to access a broader range of texts at different levels which will help develop their imagination and provide them with ideas for writing.
- Look for opportunities in daily life to use numbers, whether it's at the shops, talking about the football scores, telling the time, looking up the times of favourite TV programmes 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, 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 all learners.

- 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.

### **Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 homework will include:**

- Weekly spellings/high frequency word lists and phonics to learn.
- Reading books.
- Maths & numeracy tasks (occasionally).
- Topic based homework (occasionally).

### **Year 3 to Year 6 homework will include:**

- Weekly spelling lists and times tables to learn.
- Reading books.
- Maths & numeracy tasks (occasionally).
- Topic based homework (occasionally).

## **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.
- Additional optional homework will be given to pupils in Y3 to Y6.
- Some Additional Learning Needs children may get extra homework linked to their Individual Development Plan.
- Some More Able and Talented learners may get extra independent learning tasks.

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

- 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) Contact parents with concerns over homework e.g. lack to reading at home or learning weekly spellings.
- 5) Clearly explain the homework that is set and the deadline for completion.
- 6) Acknowledge completion of homework set through dojo rewards.
- 7) Choose the most appropriate platform to set the homework.
- 8) Clearly explain how to access the homework.

## **Monitoring and Evaluating this Policy**

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

Signed.....

Date.....

Signed.....

Date.....

## Appendix 1

### Analysis of Parental Homework Questionnaires

We had 44 responses to our recent questionnaire about homework and the results are listed in the table below:

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Do you think homework is important and why?	<b>Yes 46%</b> <b>Maybe 21%</b> <b>No 34%</b> <b>A majority (67%) responded positively.</b>
How often do you think homework should be set?	<b>Daily 5%</b> <b>Weekly 36%</b> <b>Monthly 27%</b> <b>Half termly 32%</b> <b>'Weekly' had the highest votes.</b>
How often do you hear your children read?	<b>Daily 50%</b> <b>Regularly 50%</b> <b>All hear their children read regularly.</b>
How often do you read TO your children?	<b>Daily 41%</b> <b>Often 32%</b> <b>Rarely 27%</b> <b>Never 0%</b> <b>Many (73%) read to their children at least often.</b>
Do you help your children learn their weekly spellings?	<b>Always 61%</b> <b>Most of the time 16%</b> <b>Sometimes 16%</b> <b>Rarely 4%</b> <b>Never 3%</b> <b>Many (77%) help their children learn the weekly spellings.</b>
Which type of homework do you think is most important?	<b>Reading 84%</b> <b>Spelling 80%</b> <b>Maths 71%</b> <b>Times tables 61%</b> <b>English 52%</b> <b>Topic 27%</b> <b>Arts and crafts 14%</b> <b>Other 7%</b> <b>Reading, spelling, maths and timetables had the highest votes.</b>
How long do you think homework should take?	<b>A wide range of responses was received.</b> <b>30 to 40 minutes was the most popular answer.</b>
Are you able to help your children complete homework online using these platforms?	<b>Spelling Shed 93%</b> <b>Purple Mash 70%</b> <b>Google classroom 68%</b> <b>Dojo 80%</b> <b>Hwb 70%</b> <b>Other 15%</b> <b>Many are able to help using all platforms.</b>
Does your child have access to a computer to do their homework?	<b>Nearly all children (97%) have access to a computer at home.</b>

How can the school further support you with home learning?

- Get rid of working off a table/internet
- If it's not done don't blame the children speak to the parents
- Make it relevant, important and quick and simple to understand and complete.
- Not too much homework as the children are too tired after school and they have a lot of clubs and family activities on the weekends.
- Less arts and crafts, building etc as a lot of families have to go out and buy resources to do this. You can also tell most of it is done by parents and not the children.
- It's a problem for us that all of the homework set seems to be online. We only have access to one Chromebook in the house which is my work issued computer and contains work that my child should not have access to. Homework in general causes quite a lot of stress in our house as my child does not enjoy doing it and I find that I end up doing a lot of the work/having to sit next to him and keep him focused the whole time which is stressful for me. I understand homework is important in secondary school but at this age I think weekly reading books and weekly spellings would be ample.
- Happy with current level of support.
- Homework often feels like a tick box exercise. Homework should be meaningful to my child's needs. For example, spending extra time on specific tasks for a better understanding/ability to complete. We place great emphasis on reading, spellings and learning times tables as well as classes outside of school. However, if we were to get personalised homework tasks, we would endeavour to complete.
- It would be easier if homework was always set in one place e.g. Google classroom or dojo as it is never consistent and therefore time consumed looking for the task and where to upload it.
- Would be a lot easier for us parents if homework was always set to view and upload on the same platform each time as sometimes we spend time looking for the task/info. Sometimes it is on dojo and sometimes on Google classrooms. It would be good if every time homework is set it is in the same place to find so we can access it straight away.
- I would much rather have constructive homework to focus on maths and literacy, not random activities, only ones that promote basic skills.
- Ensure homework is for the children not the parent. Reward the children for completing homework as there doesn't seem to be a reason for most homework.
- I personally don't agree with the home learning tasks set as the short time we have together at home is very precious and twinkl activities with no feedback from the teachers makes it feel like it is just set because that is what always has happened rather than it being purposeful. Our daughter is not motivated by the dojos for home learning as a reward and this year we have engaged rarely with home learning because it isn't always beneficial. The dojo situation is also true for spellings as I really do not like the point system for how many correct spellings during a test. Again, this has just completely demotivated our child as she doesn't feel motivated intrinsically by the reward system where she isn't always recognised for her hard work and effort rather than aiming for 10/10. This has then led to her not wanting to even learn her spellings so it is having the opposite impact unintentionally. All home learning tasks are set on Hwb, whilst that is promoting access to digital platforms it is another reason for them to be on a device when we are working hard to discourage this is a world of overuse of technology. We would much rather our child be more physically active and have time to relax and enjoy her own interests at home.
- Comments on the work when submitted.
- It depends what kind of homework is....do some projects, use some technologies...
- Pick a platform and use it. It's gets confusing when sometimes it's a sheet that comes home or sometimes it's on Google classroom etc.
- I don't agree with homework. Family time is much more important. I support my children with their educational needs as I see fit.
- Provide paper spelling lists for practise.

- I think the children have enough to deal with in school. They should not have to do much, if any, homework.
- No support required.
- I think it should be very little homework if not none. As the children have far too much and are expected to do too much. We learn spellings every day of the week read every day of the week and then we are given homework on top and then what ever on top again. As my child has been given extra on top it's not fair on their little minds. Children need to have some down time and not pressured to do homework. If they don't do it they lose their break time in Year 6. To be honest I think the children's homework should be reading and spellings only. Also the school needs to focus on them telling the time and money.
- For this survey we have assumed that homework includes reading, spellings and times tables. Outside of this we would be happy with half termly homework tasks as our children are at the younger ages. Additional support would be useful if it included specific areas that your child could use more practice in such as fractions in maths, or focussing on tricky words for example. Information as to what is on each platform like purple mash and hwb. My child taught me that they could practice times tables using hwb. But we don't know if they have to practice, is it optional to practice, as we haven't received any specific guidance on this. We use it frequently as it's a key skill and they enjoy it but I have no idea if we do just enough, more than enough or if we should be spending more time practicing.
- I believe the homework set already consolidates what is taught at school.
- Consistency and setting clear expectations from parents and students. Homework for children should be meaningful and purposeful which will help the parents to engage the children
- Use paper instead of online!
- Less homework for working parents
- I feel that maths reinforcing learning is vital - times tables, quick recall of number facts
- If it's a paper exercise to complete, print it off as not everyone has access to printers at home.
- Some of the online platforms I am unable to access. I do prefer old style pen and paper.

## Appendix 2

### Analysis of Pupil Homework Questionnaires

#### Year 6

Do you find homework...?	<b>Too easy 3%</b> <b>Easy 14%</b> <b>Medium 83%</b> <b>Hard 0%</b> <b>Too hard 0%</b>
Do you enjoy homework?	<b>Yes 4%</b> <b>No 24%</b> <b>Sometimes 72%</b>
Do you think homework is important?	<b>Yes 59%</b> <b>No</b> <b>Maybe 36%</b>
How often do you think homework should be set?	<b>Daily 0%</b> <b>Weekly 71%</b> <b>Monthly 21%</b> <b>Half termly 7%</b>
How often do you read independently?	<b>Daily 42%</b> <b>Often 39%</b>

	<b>Rarely 18%</b> <b>Never 0%</b>
How often do you read to someone?	<b>Daily 4%</b> <b>Often 17%</b> <b>Rarely 48%</b> <b>Never 31%</b>
How often do you practise your spellings?	<b>Daily 11%</b> <b>More than 3 x per week 36%</b> <b>Less than 3 x per week 29%</b> <b>Once a week 21%</b> <b>Never 3%</b>
Which type of homework do you think is the most important?	<b>English 31%</b> <b>Reading 4%</b> <b>Spelling 17%</b> <b>Maths 17%</b> <b>Time tables 7%</b> <b>Topic 0%</b> <b>Arts and crafts 14%</b> <b>Other 10%</b>
Which type of homework do you enjoy completing the most?	<b>English 1%</b> <b>Reading 67%</b> <b>Spelling 1%</b> <b>Maths 11%</b> <b>Time tables 1%</b> <b>Topic 18%</b> <b>Arts and crafts 1%</b> <b>Other 0%</b>
How long do you think homework should take?	<b>A wide range of responses was received.</b> <b>15 to 20 minutes was the most popular answer.</b>
What platforms do you use to complete homework?	<b>Spelling Shed 38%</b> <b>Purple Mash 0%</b> <b>Google classroom 83%</b> <b>Hwb 24%</b> <b>Dojo 24%</b> <b>Paper 3%</b>
How can your teachers help you further with your home learning?	<b>More tips and hints.</b> <b>More time to complete it.</b>

### Year 5

Do you find homework...?	<b>Too easy 5%</b> <b>Easy 6%</b> <b>Medium 68%</b> <b>Hard 16%</b> <b>Too Hard 5%</b>
Do you enjoy homework?	<b>Yes 11%</b> <b>No 21%</b> <b>Sometimes 68%</b>
Do you think homework is important?	<b>Yes 39%</b> <b>No 11%</b> <b>Maybe 50%</b>
How often do you think homework should be set?	<b>Daily 11%</b> <b>Weekly 47%</b> <b>Monthly 37%</b>

	<b>Half termly 5%</b>
How often do you read independently?	<b>Daily 53%</b> Often 31% Rarely 16% Never 0%
How often do you read to someone?	<b>Daily 5%</b> Often 37% <b>Rarely 58%</b> Never 0%
How often do you practise your spellings?	<b>Daily 11%</b> <b>More than 3 x per week 31%</b> Less than 3 x per week 21% Once a week 26% Never 11%
Which type of homework do you think is the most important?	<b>English 11%</b> Reading 0% Spelling 0% <b>Maths 47%</b> Time tables 21% Topic 0% Arts and crafts 16% Other 5%
Which type of homework do you enjoy completing the most?	<b>English 11%</b> Reading 5% Spelling 0% Maths 26% Time tables 5% Topic 0% <b>Arts and crafts 42%</b> Other 11%
How long do you think homework should take?	<b>A wide range of responses was received.</b> <b>30 minutes was the most popular answer.</b>
What platforms do you use to complete homework?	<b>Spelling Shed 42%</b> Purple Mash 5% <b>Google classroom 68%</b> Hwb 63% Dojo 16% Paper 5%
How can your teachers help you further with your home learning?	<b>Lots of different responses.</b>

#### Year 4

Do you find homework...?	<b>Too easy 4%</b> Easy 0% <b>Medium 84%</b> Hard 4% Too Hard 8%
Do you enjoy homework?	<b>Yes 25%</b> No 12% <b>Sometimes 63%</b>
Do you think homework is important?	<b>Yes 52%</b> No 4% Maybe 44%

How often do you think homework should be set?	Daily 12% <b>Weekly 71%</b> Monthly 12% Half termly 5%
How often do you read independently?	<b>Daily 40%</b> Often 32% Rarely 24% Never 4%
How often do you read to someone?	Daily 17% Often 29% <b>Rarely 37%</b> Never 17%
How often do you practise your spellings?	Daily 24% <b>More than 3 x per week 44%</b> Less than 3 x per week 8% Once a week 16% Never 8%
Which type of homework do you think is the most important?	English 4% Reading 4% Spelling 12% <b>Maths 64%</b> Time tables 8% Topic 4% Arts and crafts 4% Other 0%
Which type of homework do you enjoy completing the most?	English 4% Reading 8% Spelling 4% <b>Maths 40%</b> Time tables 8% Topic 4% Arts and crafts 28% Other (science) 4%
How long do you think homework should take?	A wide range of responses was received. <b>30 minutes was the most popular answer.</b>
What platforms do you use to complete homework?	Spelling Shed 40% Purple Mash 4% <b>Google classroom 80%</b> Hwb 76% Dojo 24% Paper 0%
How can your teachers help you further with your home learning?	Lots of different responses. More tips and hints.

### Year 3

Do you find homework...?	Too easy 8% Easy 13% <b>Medium 60%</b> Hard 13% Too Hard 0% Don't do it 6%
Do you enjoy homework?	Yes 30% No 7% <b>Sometimes 63%</b>



Do you think homework is important?	<b>Yes 57%</b> <b>No 3%</b> <b>Maybe 40%</b>
How often do you think homework should be set?	<b>Daily 7%</b> <b>Weekly 70%</b> <b>Monthly 23%</b> <b>Half termly 0%</b>
How often do you read independently?	<b>Daily 37%</b> <b>Often 57%</b> <b>Rarely 6%</b> <b>Never 0%</b>
How often do you read to someone?	<b>Daily 6%</b> <b>Often 50%</b> <b>Rarely 40%</b> <b>Never 4%</b>
How often do you practise your spellings?	<b>Daily 20%</b> <b>More than 3 x per week 43%</b> <b>Less than 3 x per week 20%</b> <b>Once a week 13%</b> <b>Never 4%</b>
Which type of homework do you think is the most important?	<b>English 13%</b> <b>Reading 4%</b> <b>Spelling 10%</b> <b>Maths 37%</b> <b>Time tables 10%</b> <b>Topic 17%</b> <b>Arts and crafts 5%</b> <b>Other 4%</b>
Which type of homework do you enjoy completing the most?	<b>English 5%</b> <b>Reading 10%</b> <b>Spelling 17%</b> <b>Maths 37%</b> <b>Time tables 4%</b> <b>Topic 13%</b> <b>Arts and crafts 10%</b> <b>Other 4%</b>
How long do you think homework should take?	<b>A wide range of responses was received.</b> <b>40 minutes was the most popular answer.</b>
What platforms do you use to complete homework?	<b>Spelling Shed 43%</b> <b>Purple Mash 3%</b> <b>Google classroom 97%</b> <b>Hwb 97%</b> <b>Dojo 63%</b> <b>Paper 0%</b>
How can your teachers help you further with your home learning?	<b>Lots of different responses.</b>

### Year 2

Do you find homework...?	<b>Too easy 4%</b> <b>Easy 17%</b> <b>Medium 71%</b> <b>Hard 4%</b> <b>Too Hard 4%</b>
Do you enjoy homework?	<b>Yes 78%</b> <b>No 3%</b>

	<b>Sometimes 19%</b>
Do you think homework is important?	<b>Yes 93%</b> No 0% Maybe 7%
How often do you think homework should be set?	<b>Daily 21%</b> <b>Weekly 46%</b> Monthly 8% Half termly 25%
How often do you read independently?	<b>Daily 26%</b> <b>Often 59%</b> Rarely 11% Never 4%
How often do you read to someone?	<b>Daily 32%</b> <b>Often 46%</b> Rarely 18% Never 4%
How often do you practise your spellings?	<b>Daily 29%</b> <b>More than 3 x per week 32%</b> Less than 3 x per week 3% Once a week 29% Never 7%
Which type of homework do you think is the most important?	<b>English 14%</b> Reading 8% Spelling 14% <b>Maths 39%</b> Time tables 11% Topic 14% Arts and crafts 0% Other 0%
Which type of homework do you enjoy completing the most?	<b>English 0%</b> Reading 7% Spelling 18% Maths 11% Time tables 7% Topic 7% <b>Arts and crafts 50%</b> Other
How long do you think homework should take?	<b>A wide range of responses was received.</b>
What platforms do you use to complete homework?	<b>Spelling Shed 87%</b> Purple Mash 39% Google classroom 4% Hwb 39% Dojo 14% Paper 4%
How can your teachers help you further with your home learning?	<b>Explain it more.</b>

### Year 1

### Whole Class Response

Do you find homework...?	<b>Too easy</b> Easy <b>Medium 100%</b> Hard
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	<b>Too Hard</b>
Do you enjoy homework?	<b>Yes</b> <b>No</b> <b>Sometimes 100%</b>
Do you think homework is important?	<b>Yes 100%</b> <b>No</b> <b>Maybe</b>
How often do you think homework should be set?	<b>Daily</b> <b>Weekly 100%</b> <b>Monthly</b> <b>Half termly</b>
How often do you read independently?	<b>Daily</b> <b>Often 100%</b> <b>Rarely</b> <b>Never</b>
How often do you read to someone?	<b>Daily</b> <b>Often 100%</b> <b>Rarely</b> <b>Never</b>
How often do you practise your spellings?	<b>Daily</b> <b>More than 3 x per week 100%</b> <b>Less than 3 x per week</b> <b>Once a week</b> <b>Never</b>
Which type of homework do you think is the most important?	<b>English</b> <b>Reading</b> <b>Spelling 100%</b> <b>Maths</b> <b>Time tables</b> <b>Topic</b> <b>Arts and crafts</b> <b>Other</b>
Which type of homework do you enjoy completing the most?	<b>English</b> <b>Reading 100%</b> <b>Spelling</b> <b>Maths</b> <b>Time tables</b> <b>Topic</b> <b>Arts and crafts</b> <b>Other</b>
How long do you think homework should take?	<b>10 mins</b>
What platforms do you use to complete homework?	<b>Spelling Shed 100%</b> <b>Purple Mash</b> <b>Google classroom</b> <b>Hwb</b> <b>Dojo</b> <b>Paper</b>

### Reception

Do you find homework...?	<b>Too easy</b> <b>Easy 100%</b> <b>Medium</b> <b>Hard</b> <b>Too Hard</b>
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Do you enjoy homework?	<b>Yes 100%</b> No Sometimes
Do you think homework is important?	<b>Yes 100%</b> No Maybe
How often do you think homework should be set?	<b>Daily 100%</b> Weekly Monthly Half termly
How often do you read independently?	Daily Often Rarely <b>Never 100%</b>
How often do you read to someone?	Daily <b>Often 100%</b> Rarely Never
How often do you practise your spellings?	<b>Daily 100%</b> More than 3 x per week Less than 3 x per week Once a week Never
Which type of homework do you think is the most important?	English <b>Reading 100%</b> Spelling Maths Time tables Topic Arts and crafts Other
Which type of homework do you enjoy completing the most?	English <b>Reading 100%</b> Spelling Maths Time tables Topic Arts and crafts Other
How long do you think homework should take?	<b>20 mins</b>
What platforms do you use to complete homework?	Spelling Shed Purple Mash Google classroom Hwb Dojo <b>Paper 100%</b>