

Knowle C.E. Primary Academy
Homework Policy

Our School Aims

Preparing Children for the Future

Be Healthy

We aim to empower each child to become physically, mentally and emotionally healthy in order that they can learn effectively and choose a healthy lifestyle.

Embrace Christian Values

We aim to empower each child to develop socially, morally, ethically and spiritually by experiencing and sharing in our Christian beliefs and values

Stay Safe

We aim to develop and sustain a happy and secure environment in which children become self-confident, articulate, emotionally aware, socially adept, literate and numerate in order to make the right life choices and, therefore, be inherently safer.

Make a Positive Contribution

We aim to empower children to actively engage in the planning of their learning experiences, and have the confidence to express themselves in discussion and in writing in order that they will choose to engage positively in social and community roles, becoming global citizens.

Enjoy and Achieve

We aim to empower each child to experience the joy of learning and to achieve success, developing their capacity to learn independently and interdependently in order that they choose to be engaged in lifelong learning.

Achieve Economic Well-being

We aim to empower each child to develop a positive attitude, become self motivated, and develop key academic and social skills, which enable them to think creatively and choose to impact on, influence and shape the world they live in.

Learning for Life

INTRODUCTION

Homework at Knowle CE Primary Academy is an important and valued aspect of learning. It offers a real opportunity for parents and children to work together to support and enhance their child's learning.

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. In order to be effective, homework needs to be part of the wider partnership between parents/carers and the school.

CONSULTATION

The views of parents, teachers, pupils and Governors have been taken into account prior to the completion of this policy. Whilst providing an agreed framework, the policy also promotes a flexible and balanced approach to homework so that at no time do demands upon children become excessive

AIMS

The aim of this policy is to:

- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.
- Ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and for their child.
- Improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils.
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership.
- Provide opportunities for parents and their children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- Ensure that homework arrangements are manageable for everyone, as well as educationally beneficial.
- Encourage pupils to develop long-term strategies for future needs.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

In a primary school the purposes of homework change as children get older and this is reflected in the type of work set and length of time to be spent on homework activities.

The purpose of homework is to:

- Develop a partnership between the school and parents or carers and involve them actively in their child's learning.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and maths.
- Exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.
- Extend school learning, for example through additional reading and investigation.
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

FOCUS OF HOMEWORK

The main focus of homework will be English and maths, although other areas of the curriculum may well be included particularly as the pupils move up the school.

Homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which can be very brief but extremely valuable in promoting learning. It provides an important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

Homework tasks will as far as possible be flexible enough to meet the needs of all pupils and may include some of the following activities:

- Reading practice and listening to others read is essential throughout primary school, so children should have opportunities to read to their parents or carers, listen to them reading or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own frequently.
- Learning spellings.
- Practising basic grammatical skills.
- Comprehension activities.
- Practising basic number skills.
- Learning tables.

- Extending or reinforcing activities done in class.
- Handwriting sheets.
- Number games.
- Reading and research in preparation for lessons.
- Preparing oral presentations.
- Written assignments.

SETTING OF HOMEWORK

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

- **Foundation 1 (Nursery)**

Emphasis is placed upon discussing books and developing ideas about story and print. Each week the children will have the opportunity to choose and borrow a 'book share' book to enjoy at home.

- **Foundation 2 (Reception)**

In addition to reading, pupils will also start to have short tasks such as learning High Frequency words, practising handwriting, mathematical activities or finding information for topics.

- **Key Stage 1**

Teachers in KS1 will set maths homework weekly. This will normally follow the teaching of an activity in order to reinforce the concept. Spellings will be given to children each week and in addition to this a Literacy or topic related task may also be given. This could include phonics, comprehension, writing or research. Book Exchange, where children have the opportunity to choose a level appropriate book from the reading scheme, happens three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Teachers will always ensure that children understand what is expected of them and will involve parents if any difficulties with homework should arise.

HOMEWORK BOOKS KS2

Each child will have a homework book in which they will record their weekly homework on a Friday. This will enable parents and carers to see what tasks have been set and enable them to support pupils in their learning. These books can serve as a means of communication between teachers and parents/carers. Pupils are encouraged to have them in their bags each day. Homework should be completed by the following Wednesday. It is expected that all children will complete their homework in the time given. Failure to do so will be dealt with in line with the school behaviour policy.

If a child is having problems coping with some aspect of homework parents should discuss this with their child's teacher as soon as possible.

MARKING OF HOMEWORK AND FEEDBACK

When children do homework it is important they receive feedback as soon as possible. This feedback may include one of the following:

- Some activities will be open-ended and may not require formal marking but will be discussed in class.
- Other activities may be discussed and marked as a class or self-marked.
- On some occasions the teacher may formally mark a task and a comment may be added.
- Follow up to some types of homework will be in the form of a weekly test, e.g. spellings.
- Teachers may feed back oral comments to pupils to minimise the need for lengthy written comments.

Homework will be linked to activities being studied in school and will be used to reinforce and extend pupils subject knowledge.

PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Pupils with Special Educational Needs will often require differentiated homework. Careful consideration should be given to ensure that activities are linked to targets outlined on their Individual Education Plans and that the amount of work set is manageable.

HOW PARENTS AND CARERS CAN SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH HOMEWORK

At Knowle Academy we actively encourage support from parents and carers in the completion of homework activities. Help can be provided in the following ways.

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.
3. Make use of your local library.
4. Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting.
5. Try to set time aside to do "homework" activities with young children.
6. Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for children to do homework.
7. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
8. If your child/children are doing research involving the Internet they may well find large quantities of information. It is important that they are encouraged to select key facts that they can either copy onto a new word document or mind map rather than printing out all the information without understanding it.

As a school we encourage safe use of the Internet and there are sites that are used in school that are more suitable for children. The school website provides information about these.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF HOMEWORK

The implementation and effectiveness of homework is reviewed on a regular basis.