

Homework Policy

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S LEARNING AT HOME

Glenmere School recognises and values the family's central role in the education process, enabling school, home and community to work together. We aim to be recognised as a school which actively encourages a positive partnership between the home and the school to support children's learning. We believe that Glenmere is a good school and that some forms of work taken home are necessary to help with children's educational development.

The school places great value on the role of teachers and parents working together as partners for the benefit of the children. Over many years there has been a tradition of parents actively supporting the work of the school, both in the classroom and at home, and this policy seeks to make a contribution to that on-going partnership and is based on Government guidelines.

In addition the following school booklets will give further advice and guidance to parents in practical ways of supporting their children's learning.

Welcome pack	- new 4+ parents
Helping your Child with Reading	- available to any parents
Helping you Child with Maths	- available to any parents
Information on topics covered	- half-termly to all parents

Purpose:

It has been agreed that the purpose of homework is:

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding thus extending school learning;
- To exploit resources for learning at home;
- To encourage children as they get older to develop personal organisation skills, positive work attitudes and personal qualities such as initiative, self discipline and self confidence, which will be needed in their future education.

The school strongly believes that the children, who are expected to work extremely hard during the day and then often go on to take part in after school and evening activities, need time to relax and talk to their families. Children need time 'to be children' at this young age and must be allowed to relax sufficiently in order to be able to come into school fresh, bright and ready to give of their best each day. Therefore, we do not view homework as compulsory, but a shared and enjoyable activity that takes place whenever it is possible. However, we do strongly recommend that at least reading, spellings and time-tables are done regularly at home.

Definition:

In the context of this policy, homework refers to any work or activities which children are asked to do outside lesson time. These activities may be on their own or with the support of parents or carers. It refers not only to formal exercises but also to activities such as sharing books, playing games, doing challenges, developing thinking skills, carrying out investigations, searching for information, etc.

The school's main homework activities will revolve around reading, spelling, multiplication tables and topic work. Children who read regularly with parents are generally at an advantage - reading is the key to so much school work. The benefit of discussion with children at home also cannot be underestimated. Weekly spellings will be sent home and parents/carers are encouraged to help the children to learn the key words. When appropriate 'tables' learning will be a home activity. We also believe that much benefit can be gained by discussing school topics at home, borrowing books and resources from the local library and searching the internet.

To this end, our policy for sending work home is as follows:-

4+ (Foundation Stage)

- Children to take home books daily to share with their parents. The nature of the book depends upon the child's level of understanding of text. The book may not be changed daily, but when appropriate;
- As the children begin to learn their alphabet sounds, phonics sheets will be sent home to reinforce this learning;
- Maths games go home for you to share together;
- Occasional topic work.

YEARS 1 and 2 (Key Stage One)

- Children take books home each night. These could be teacher directed books, (changed when appropriate) or one of the child's own choice. Parents are asked to share the 'own choice' book, and listen to and guide their child with the 'teacher directed' book. However, it is not essential for the children to read every night, but we would encourage them to read on as many evenings as possible;
- Parents are asked to record pages read at home, and to write a comment in their child's' Reading Link Book. Teachers may also comment to ensure that there is a positive dialogue between school and home;
- Children will also have words to learn to spell each week, which are taken from their Literacy Hour vocabulary word lists;
- Occasionally children are asked to investigate some topic work being undertaken in class. Parents will be informed in advance by letter from the class teacher of the topics planned each term;
- Multiplication tables to learn.

YEARS 3, 4 and 5 (Key Stage Two)

- Children are given a list of spellings to learn most weeks;
- Children are given some multiplication tables to learn regularly;
- Reading books are sent home each evening for on-going practice. Junior children may also take home a library book of their own choice to read/research. Use of the Reading Link Book by parents and teachers will also continue. The child's 'own choice' book from the library can form the basis of much discussion at home;
- Occasionally children are asked to investigate some topic work to be undertaken in class. A letter from the class teacher will inform parents in advance of the topics being covered each term.

Year 3 children will have just one Homework Book, which will be for recording what they have to do and doing the work in. Years 4 and 5 will have a Homework Diary in which to record what they need to do each week and a separate Homework Book for doing the work in.

Please note that children in Year 5 will be expected to take more ownership of their Homework Diary and the amount of work sent home will increase during the year, particularly in the summer term, in preparation for transfer to High School.

Homework will not be set for children taking family holidays during school time. However, it would be useful for children to keep a diary of holidays if they wish.

If these areas of work are diligently undertaken at home, we believe they, in themselves, are sufficient to achieve the necessary balance between school work, homework and childhood.

Recommended time allocation:

The Government believes that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in Key Stage 1 should be designed to take, on average, about one hour a week. At Key Stage 2 the demands should gradually increase so that by Year 6 children are spending about 30 minutes a day (two and a half hours a week) on homework.

Years 1 and 2	1 hour a week
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours a week
Years 5 and 6	2.5 hours a week