



Homework Policy

Errington Primary School

This policy has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment by:

Author/Reviewer: Sarah Rule

SLT/EET: Sarah Rule/Allan Fishpool/Claire English

Governors/Trustees: Anthony Senior

Could/does the policy or procedure have a negative impact on one or more of the groups of people covered by the protected characteristics of equality? If so, how can this be changed or modified to minimise or justify the impact? _{no}

Could/does the policy have the potential to create a positive impact on equality by reducing and removing inequalities and barriers that already exist? If so, how can these be maximised? _{no}

1 Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- To provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- To consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

- 4 We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1, we give children books to take home and read with their parents or

carers. We give guidance to parents and carers on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn common exception words or mathematical facts as part of their homework e.g. number bonds. Sometimes, we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young, and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children.

At Key Stage 2, we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set either literacy or maths homework routinely each week, and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home.

Homework is marked according to the general school marking and feedback policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

5 Amount of homework

Homework will be given on a FRIDAY each week to be returned by WEDNESDAY the following week.

Reading books will be changed each week, depending on need and ability. A reading log will accompany each book for further activities and guidance for reading at home.

6 Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

7 The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.

Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents and carers to check reading logs daily and to sign it.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the governing body.

8 Use of ICT

The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the internet.

9 Monitoring and review

The Headteacher is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents and carers complete a questionnaire each term, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from our headteacher a report on the way in which homework is organised in our school.

This policy will be reviewed each year, or earlier if necessary.

Date of Approval/Revision	December 2023
Review interval (years)	3 yearly
Responsible Officer	Local Governing Body
Approval/review body (ies)	Local Governing Body
Date of next review	December 2026
Public File location	Errington website