

Newbold and Tredington C of E Primary School



Homework Policy  
Reviewed September 2016  
(Whole Staff review)  
To be reviewed September 2019

This Policy reflects the values and philosophy of Newbold and Tredington School in relation to homework. It recognises the vital role which organised homework can play in raising standards of achievement by pupils of all ages.

We believe that children learn best when the school, parents and children work in partnership together. Our policy and practice incorporates the guidelines and recommendations set out by government regarding the nature and quantity of homework. However, we also recognise that children have opportunities and experiences out of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives, and we would hope that our policy allows for a balance of learning and leisure.

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.

### Aims

- To promote excellence and raise the standard of achievement for all children
- To give children structured opportunities beyond the school day to practice or consolidate skills or knowledge learnt in school
- To encourage parents and children to share learning experiences
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self discipline needed to become independent learners
- To prepare children for transition to secondary education by building up the quantity of homework as children progress through the school

### Roles and Responsibilities

The class teacher will be responsible for setting and marking homework. The latter will be done by discussion, oral feedback, written evaluation etc.

The amount of time each week may vary slightly. Some homework will be set regularly e.g. reading, learning spellings and number facts. On days when the homework activity is something other than reading children should be encouraged, in addition, to read - on their own or with others.

### Class Organisation and Teaching Style

At Newbold and Tredington school class teachers are responsible for their own organisation and teaching style in relation to homework, but at the same time must ensure these to reflect the overall aims and philosophy of the school.

Homework may be given:

\* As a class - there are occasions when it is appropriate to set whole class tasks. This may be to introduce a new module, topic, or to revise work already covered.

\* In groups - these may vary in structure. Children are sometimes grouped by ability and this gives the teacher the opportunity to introduce topics, modules or concepts to smaller structured groups of children.

It is important to encourage children to work individually on occasion, especially on assessment tasks and in preparation for SATs. Individual teaching is limited by the resources available, especially 'people' resources. Throughout all aspects of class organisation and teaching style, every effort is made to differentiate work so that it is matched to the individual or group.

Homework will consist of a variety of tasks and projects. This will depend on many factors, such as the age of the children, current learning activities, desired learning styles, available resources etc.

Staff will set a variety of learning experiences as they do for in-school learning. They will endeavor to differentiate activities to suit children's learning needs, including those with Special Educational Needs.

#### Homework Time Allocations

We have followed the Government recommendations for the quantity of homework that should be set across the primary school.

<b>Reception</b>	Daily word boxes or reading  Occasional topic work related to individual need.
<b>Years 1 and 2 (1 hour per week recommendation)</b>	Daily reading - to an adult  Daily Phonics/Spellings, Times tables/ Number facts  One English or maths activity per week.
<b>Years 3, 4 and 5 (1.5 hours per week recommendation)</b>	Daily reading - to an adult  Daily Phonics/Spellings, Times tables/ Number facts  One English or maths activity per week.

<b>Year 6</b> <b>(up to 2.5 hours per week)</b>	Daily reading  Daily Spellings/Grammar/Punctuation, Number facts  One English and one maths activity per week. SATs revision as appropriate
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Notes:

- Homework over the holidays will be a whole school activity, that will be set over the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays. It will be optional and parents will be able to access the topic on the website. We do expect all children to continue with their reading routines and practise their times tables/number bonds/mental maths skills.
- Daily reading - whether with an adult or independent should be for a minimum of 10 minutes, and should be signed off by a parent in the Reading Record or Home/School Record, or a child once they become an independent reader.
- Individual staff will advise parents of the days on which written homework will be set and the due date for return.
- Sometimes tasks are set that require access to the Internet. We recognise that not all homes have this, and so we will allow children access to school facilities at lunchtimes if requested.
- We do not insist that ill children complete homework set in their absence.

Monitoring

The application of this policy will be monitored annually through discussion with The School Council, together with a formal review of the policy every 2 years, which will include parent and pupil surveys.

This policy was written and ratified on:

It is due for renewal in two years.

Appendix A - Parent's Survey autumn 2014

There were 15 responses in total that accounted for 27% of the children in school.

Parents responses in *italic*

**Ruby Class (6 responses) 2013/14**

<p>How often does your child get homework?</p> <p><i>Reading every night, spellings each week and a piece on a Friday</i> <i>Once a week</i> <i>Guided reading every night</i> <i>Once a week</i> <i>Weekly</i> <i>Reading every night, maths tables and divisions</i> <i>Daily reading and other - varies</i> <i>Every night</i> <i>weekly</i> <i>Weekly maths and English and daily reading</i></p>	<p>How well informed do you feel about the homework that is set?</p> <p><i>Generally okay</i> <i>okay</i> <i>Very irregularly last summer term</i> <i>Well informed I like the meetings and workshops</i> <i>Well informed</i> <i>Quite well</i> <i>informed</i> <i>Not always clear - feels like we are being tested</i></p>
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<p>How much time a week does your child spend on homework? This includes reading to an adult/independently of a school book.</p> <p><i>up to 2 hours</i>  <i>70 minutes reading and 1/2 hr homework time</i>  <i>1-1.5 hours</i>  <i>30 mins a night</i>  <i>10-20 minutes daily and extra time in task homework</i>  <i>1.5-2hrs</i>  <i>15-20mins a night</i>  <i>2hrs but more like 4 hrs when story writing</i></p>	<p>What do you feel about the amount of homework your child receives?</p> <p><i>Generally okay - some of the IMPACT homework was counter productive as in the end it put my child off writing.</i>  <i>I think it is enough, we haven't had weekend homework yet</i>  <i>Not enough</i>  <i>About right</i>  <i>Good amount apart from IMPACT which took whole weekends and this was too much</i>  <i>Adequate apart from story writing we felt this was too much.</i>  <i>The workshops really helped</i></p>
<p>Do you feel able to support your child with their homework?</p> <p><i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes most of the time</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Most of time until once came home with homework that had not been taught</i></p>	<p>Tell us the good things we do regarding homework</p> <p><i>Good timescales to hand in work</i>  <i>right amount properly marked</i>  <i>workshops to support parents</i>  <i>Interesting literacy topics</i>  <i>I think reading is very good each day</i>  <i>Daily reading and reminders to practice times tables</i>  <i>Target a child's ability, IMPACT comments on homework</i>  <i>Regularly changing the books, keeping us informed of timetables progress and IMPACT workshops</i>  <i>The workshops really helped</i></p>
<p>Tell us more about the support you would like.</p> <p><i>An idea of what is expected each week</i>  <i>If we have problems with the homework, I know that the teachers are always there to help and support my child and me.</i>  <i>More homework and more homework styles</i>  <i>Better idea of the level that they should be attaining and examples of what to do</i>  <i>More info on mathematics strategies being taught</i>  <i>More workshops keeping us up to date with how they are taught</i></p>	<p>Tell us how we might improve homework</p> <p><i>Communicate in advance what is coming up. Websites to use as a point of reference.</i>  <i>Make sure the children understand the relevance of the homework set.</i>  <i>Regular feedback</i>  <i>Give more! More problem solving and find out for yourself styles</i>  <i>Clear descriptions</i>  <i>Clear instructions and work already covered in school</i></p>

<p>How aware are you of the school's Homework Policy?</p> <p><i>Not aware</i>  <i>Not sure - may need a reminder</i>  <i>Not very</i>  <i>I don't know the homework policy</i>  <i>Not aware</i>  <i>Not aware</i>  <i>I haven't read it but I am sure I could find it if I tried</i>  <i>Not very</i></p>	<p>We aim to build up the quality and complexity of homework as children move through the school in preparation for secondary school. How well do we do this?</p> <p><i>Unable to comment as child only just starting year 2. Homework increased through the year.</i>  <i>Unsure</i>  <i>ok</i>  <i>Not sure</i>  <i>Reception/Y1 good</i></p>
<p>Is homework a source of arguments at home?</p> <p><i>IMPACT was! other no</i>  <i>Yes!! - a regular parent support group sometimes</i>  <i>Sometimes there is a lot to get through</i>  <i>No more than usual</i>  <i>No</i>  <i>Yes at the weekends</i></p>	<p>Sometimes we set homework that requires access to the internet. Is this available in your home?</p> <p><i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i></p>
<p>Do you have any "top tips" regarding homework that we can share with other parents?</p> <p><i>Don't leave to the last minute</i>  <i>Don't do it when your child is tired</i>  <i>If needs be, do in a smaller chunk rather than all at once.</i>  <i>Tough but important</i></p>	
<p>Any other comments about homework?</p> <p><i>Not enough and not demanding enough</i>  <i>I find it useful if my child can hand in weekly homework during the following week, not just Monday, if we have been away for the weekend.</i>  <i>IMPACT wasn't appropriate both time and ability</i></p>	

**Sapphire Class (4 responses) 2013/14**

<p>How often does your child get homework?</p> <p><i>daily reading, weekly spellings, number bonds and word activities</i>  <i>weekly/daily reading</i>  <i>once a week (maths or literacy)</i>  <i>guided reading every night</i></p>	<p>How well informed do you feel about the homework that is set?</p> <p><i>Very well informed</i>  <i>limited information</i>  <i>Informed enough</i>  <i>V irregular las summer</i></p>
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<p>How much time a week does your child spend on homework? This includes reading to an adult/independently of a school book.</p> <p><i>One hour daily - not always weekends</i>  <i>Varies</i>  <i>1-1.5hrs a week</i>  <i>2hrs?</i></p>	<p>What do you feel about the amount of homework your child receives?</p> <p><i>It is related to what is being taught and specific areas of need</i>  <i>right amount for age</i>  <i>more would be good</i>  <i>not enough</i></p>
<p>Do you feel able to support your child with their homework?</p> <p><i>I feel we have enough at this point</i>  <i>sometimes</i>  <i>yes</i>  <i>Yes</i></p>	<p>Tell us the good things we do regarding homework</p> <p><i>Be consistent with it and mark promptly</i>  <i>keep daily reading a permanent aspect</i>  <i>Weekly spelling/times tables</i></p>
<p>Tell us more about the support you would like.</p> <p><i>better explanation of how it should be done</i>  <i>and date in</i>  <i>An idea of what is expected each week</i></p>	<p>Tell us how we might improve homework</p> <p><i>some mini holiday projects of a subject of interest to the child</i>  <i>Don't know</i></p>
<p>How aware are you of the school's Homework Policy?</p> <p><i>I need a reminder on the policy</i>  <i>Yes</i>  <i>Aware</i>  <i>Not very</i></p>	<p>We aim to build up the quality and complexity of homework as children move through the school in preparation for secondary school. How well do we do this?</p> <p><i>Yes</i>  <i>Doesn't seem to alter that much through the years</i></p>
<p>Is homework a source of arguments at home?</p> <p><i>No never</i>  <i>occasionally if the TV is on or it is last minute</i>  <i>sometimes</i></p>	<p>Sometimes we set homework that requires access to the internet. Is this available in your home?</p> <p><i>Yes</i>  <i>Yes</i></p>

Do you have any "top tips" regarding homework that we can share with other parents?

*Keep it consistent and keep a routine*

*Do it within the first two days and then put it in the school bag ready to hand in  
Bribery!!*

Any other comments about homework?

*Continue as you are!!*

***Emerald Class (6 responses) 2013/14***

<p>How often does your child get homework?</p> <p><i>Once a week Once a week (maths or literacy) Daily reading - other varies twice a week hardly ever - twice a week, can't remember once a week</i></p>	<p>How well informed do you feel about the homework that is set?</p> <p><i>okay Informed enough well informed ok but more subject workshops early in the term not at all informed very well</i></p>
<p>How much time a week does your child spend on homework? This includes reading to an adult/independently of a school book.</p> <p><i>70 minutes reading and half hour homework 1-1.5hrs 10-20 mins daily extra time on task homework 1/2 per day 2.5? 1/2 hr a week</i></p>	<p>What do you feel about the amount of homework your child receives?</p> <p><i>Preparation for 11+ More would be good Not enough Adequate but needs to be more consistent throughout the term not enough within the week it is about right</i></p>

<p>Do you feel able to support your child with their homework?</p> <p>Yes Yes Yes <i>Yes especially with the handouts given from workshop</i> <i>Yes unless it has no notes with it or the photocopy is bad</i></p>	<p>Tell us the good things we do regarding homework</p> <p><i>Workshops</i> <i>Daily readers is good and reminders to practice tables</i> <i>Marked quickly with feedback</i> <i>supply a homework diary</i></p>
<p>Tell us more about the support you would like.</p> <p><i>Getting them into the right frame of mind to do homework</i> <i>More 11+</i> <i>more homework ad more homework styles</i> <i>More workshops at the start of term</i> <i>Better examples of class learning to help with homework</i></p>	<p>Tell us how we might improve homework</p> <p><i>make sure the child understands the relevance to learning that has taken place that week and this is communicated to parents</i> <i>Give more! More problem solving or find it out yourself styles</i> <i>Constant amounts throughout the term</i> <i>Little and often</i></p>
<p>How aware are you of the school's Homework Policy?</p> <p><i>Not sure a regular reminder would be beneficial</i> <i>Aware</i> <i>Not aware</i> <i>Very aware</i> <i>not aware</i></p>	<p>We aim to build up the quality and complexity of homework as children move through the school in preparation for secondary school. How well do we do this?</p> <p><i>Don't know</i> <i>Not sure</i> <i>Complexity improves year on year although frequency could increase in Year 6 to support high school change.</i> <i>not very I hope that he doesn't get a shock at big school with too much</i> <i>very well</i></p>
<p>Is homework a source of arguments at home?</p> <p><i>Yes!! A parent homework support group</i> <i>Occasionally if the TV on or left to the last minute</i> <i>No more than anything else</i> <i>Yes but only trying to encourage my child to start it</i> <i>No</i></p>	<p>Sometimes we set homework that requires access to the internet. Is this available in your home?</p> <p><i>Not always, I would prefer alternatives to internet homework as it's too vague</i></p>

Do you have any “top tips” regarding homework that we can share with other parents?

*Tough but important*

Do it within the first two days and then put in the bag for school

commit time to support your child

If unsure ask for help from school

Any other comments about homework?

*Not enough of it and not demanding enough!*

#### Appendix B – Pupil Survey Results

44 children undertook the survey

1. Do you enjoy homework? Yes - 13 Yes usually - 11 Sort of - 14 Not much - 4 No - 1	8. Are there things you like about working at home? Yes – 24 No - 3 Don't know – 12
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<p>2. All primary school children should be set homework</p> <p>Agree - 43 Disagree - 1</p>	<p>9. Please say what you like about working at home</p> <p>I don't normally enjoy doing homework People can help me Because you can do it in your own time Because it is quiet Time given to do it Have more time to work n it No distractions I get someone to help me I work with my mum/dad I can do some then play and then do some more I can use my tablet/ipad Dad helps me.</p>
<p>3. Doing homework helps me with my learning</p> <p>Agree - 33 Disagree - 1 Not sure - 7</p>	<p>10. Is your homework too easy?</p> <p>Yes - 2 No - 11 Sometimes - 25</p>
<p>4. Does an adult help you at home with your homework?</p> <p>Always - 10 Usually - 11 Sometimes - 22</p>	<p>11. Is your homework too hard?</p> <p>Yes - 1 No - 21 Sometimes - 19</p>
<p>5. Do you think you get enough homework?</p> <p>Yes - 40 No - Don't know - 4</p>	<p>12. Do you use your homework diary?</p> <p>Yes - every night - 9 Yes - sometimes - 22 No - 6</p>
<p>6. Does your teacher give you enough time to do your homework?</p> <p>Yes - 40 No - Don't know - 4</p>	<p>13. Does your homework cause arguments at home?</p> <p>Yes - 6 No - 18 Sometimes - 17</p>

<p>7. I worry about my homework</p> <p>Agree - 11 Disagree - 30</p>	<p>14. What sort of homework do you like?</p> <p>Maths - 15 Spelling - 15 Writing - 12 Reading - 17 Other (please say) Art and DT would be fun Cycling challenges Drawing Projects Maths challenges</p>
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