



HILL WEST  
*Primary*

FOUR OAKS

**HOMEWORK  
POLICY**

Hill West Primary School is a member of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership

# **HILL WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## ***ACE: Ambitious, Curious and Ever-Respectful***

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Hill West Primary School is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward-thinking and safe learning environment in which pupils are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling education. We believe that homework plays an important part in education and the benefit of doing homework, alongside a nurturing and supporting adult help to develop, at an early, the later skills of independent study.

We know that our pupils have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. As such we have given careful consideration to ensuring homework is well-balanced across the school.

This policy was developed in consultation with staff members, parents and pupils, and with the full agreement of our Arthur Terry Learning Partnership, Trust Advocates.

### **AIMS**

This policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regards to homework.
- Ensure that parents understand what is expected of their child and are able to support them with their learning at home.
- Encourage pupils to develop the intrinsic desire to continually learn
- Embed knowledge and support pupils' learning experiences via practise and consolidation.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning, and to keep them informed about the work their child is undertaking.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Extend learning beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practise and a deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

### **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

This policy has due regard to all relevant statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2019) 'Ways to reduce workload in your school(s)'
- Ofsted (2022) 'School inspection handbook'
- Ofsted (2022) 'School monitoring handbook'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Behaviour Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Attendance and Absence Policy

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Head Teacher will be responsible for:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy annually and making appropriate updates as required.
- Discussing with staff the extent to which this policy is being implemented.
- Meeting with parents and discussing the impact of homework as appropriate.
- Providing parents with information about homework.
- Informing new parents about this policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of inclusivity and accessibility of homework.

The Leadership Team will be responsible for:

- Ensuring all members of staff within their phase are aware of the school's Homework Policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy within their phase and reporting their findings back to the Head Teacher.
- Answering any queries that teaching staff have regarding this policy and the school's practices.

Teachers will be responsible for:

- Planning and setting up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Providing an explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensuring all homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Setting homework that is appropriate to pupils' abilities.
- Monitoring homework regularly and making sure pupils are completing it.
- Providing feedback to pupils on homework as necessary.
- Communicating with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Being available to parents and pupils for a discussion about homework.
- Setting homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensuring homework considers equal opportunities and that the needs of pupils with disabilities.

- Rewarding quality work and praising pupils who regularly complete homework.

Parents will be responsible for:

- Supporting and encouraging their child with regards to completing homework.
- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Making sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Providing suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Informing teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operating with the school to find a solution.
- Keeping the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively.
- Encouraging their child to discuss homework and feedback from teachers.

Pupils will be responsible for:

- Making sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seeking clarification if required.
- Ensuring that they have everything they need to complete homework and returning to school all books and stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Taking pride in the presentation and content of their homework and performing to the best of their abilities.

## THE SCHOOL'S APPROACH TO HOMEWORK

As a senior team, we understand at Hill West that setting and providing feedback on homework is a large contributor to the workload of teachers; therefore, phase leaders and teachers will ensure that homework is only set to positively impact pupils' progress.

Prior to homework being set, teachers will ask themselves, 'Why am I setting this homework?' and 'How will this homework be useful to the pupil?' If the answers to these questions do not reflect a positive impact on pupils' learning, teachers will use their professional judgement and decide whether the homework is necessary.

Some homework tasks will be set via an online platform, reducing printing costs and the number of lost homework sheets. Pupils will also use a homework book to complete some of their homework tasks.

**Every week, Next Week at Hill West** will inform parents about the main topics and units of work being covered and outlined the tasks being set for homework. All children at Hill West will be given homework regularly on a **Friday and this should be completed by the child by the following Friday** (1 week completion timescale). This homework will consist of three main tasks;

- **Task 1** – Reading and Spelling Focused home study
- **Task 2** – Mathematics Focused home study
- **Task 3** – Wider Curriculum / Cross Curricular home study

In addition, at Hill West, children are encouraged to **read every night** for a minimum of 15 minutes. With the very youngest children this may simply be a time when parents share a story

with their child. With readers that are more competent it may take the form of sharing a book together or the child reading independently.

Also, at Hill West, all children in Year two to six are expected to access Times Tables Rockstars for a minimum of five minutes each week day, playing in 'garage' mode.

Pupils' weekly homework activity will be designed to take around **45 minutes – 2 hours**, over the course of a week, depending on the age of the pupil. The amount of homework set for pupils will increase as they progress through school. Teachers will occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they deem it beneficial.

- **Reception; 45 minutes a week**
- **Years 1 and 2; 50 to 60 minutes a week**
- **Years 3 and 4; 60 – 90 minutes a week**
- **Years 5 and 6; approximately 2 hours a week**

## CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

- **On a Friday** check the homework that has been issued via our weekly communication – **Next Week at Hill West**.
- If your child is in Reception, Year One or Year Two, log on to Collins EBooks and read the assigned book, or parts of it, three times each week.
- If your child is in Reception or Year One, complete the phonics home learning task set
- If your child is in Year One, Year Two, Year Three, Year Four, Year Five or Year Six, log on to Reading Eggs/Eggspress and complete one on-line lesson each week (this is usually the assigned homework for Task 1 outlined above).
- If your child is in Reception, Year One or Year Two log onto Maths Seeds and complete one lesson on-line each week (this is usually the assigned homework for Task 2 outlined above).
- If your child is in Year Two, Year Three, Year Four, Year Five or Year Six log onto TT Rockstars each week day evening and complete 5 minutes of Garage Band.
- Engage in the homework with your child, discuss it with your child and encourage them to do the best they can.
- Help your child to organise his/her homework into a little a night rather than the whole lot on a Sunday!

## ABSENCES

If a pupil is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will not supply homework tasks for these periods – pupils should be well enough to undertake any work supplied. There may be exceptions to the above and the classroom teacher will decide whether homework should be set on a case-by-case basis.

If a pupil is absent for a long period of time, the teacher and the parents of the pupil will agree on the support necessary.

## **PUPILS WHO DON'T MANAGE TO COMPLETE HOMEWORK**

All pupils will be expected to complete their homework each week. Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework which are regularly checked. If pupils fail to complete homework, teachers will contact parents to enquire as to the reason.

Teachers will make efforts to support pupils who are struggling to complete homework and will raise any concerns regarding their pupils' ability to complete homework to their phase leader and/or parents as appropriate.

## **PUPILS WITH SEND**

A balanced approach to homework will be adopted for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the pupil's parents and the SENCO. Where appropriate, the school will set adjusted or specific tasks for pupils with SEND as outlined in their individual education plans. While pupils with SEND may benefit from personalised tasks separate from the homework received by other pupils, they will also complete as much standard homework as possible, within a trauma informed attachment aware lens.

Pupils with SEND will be supported in accordance with the school's SEND Policy and Relationships and Behaviour Policy.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

A copy of the Homework policy is published on our school website and is reissued to parents periodically to take account of any changes in practice or to highlight changes in the school's homework priorities. Homework is reviewed within the cycle of school development planning. The Head Teacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team monitor the completion of homework throughout the year.