



HILL WEST
Primary

FOUR OAKS

**HOMEWORK
POLICY**

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

HILL WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Research has shown that the completion of homework has a very positive and significant effect on children's achievement and embeds positive learning habits for lifelong learning.

AIMS

At Hill West Primary School we aim to aid each child's progress towards achieving his or her full potential with the assistance, support and cooperation of parents. By setting a little homework on a regular basis and on an increasing ratio, from Reception to Year 6, we are preparing children for the demands and responsibilities of secondary school and life thereafter. The United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child which underpins our work specifies in Article 29 that education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

OBJECTIVES:

At Hill West Primary School we see homework as an opportunity to:

- consolidate the work done in school
- prepare children for the work to come
- develop children's research skills by encouraging them to use libraries, the internet and a range of other resources
- provide opportunities for individualised work
- provide structured opportunities for parental involvement and support
- provide information for parents about the on-going work of the class
- encourage the children to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for learning
- develop good habits such as independence and self-discipline in learning
- train pupils in planning and organising their time

WHAT IS HOMEWORK?

Homework is not necessarily written work. It is any task that a child is asked to complete at home. It may consist of reading, learning by heart and reinforcement of class work, research and project work or further practise of skills learnt in class.

At Hill West we recognise the need for children to adopt a balanced approach to their out of school activities. We appreciate the value of extra curricular activities (sport, music, dance, drama and other hobbies) and believe that a well balanced, healthy child should be encouraged to develop their own particular interests in as many of these activities as possible. Therefore we attempt to balance the amount of homework given to children with their other out of school commitments.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

At Hill West Primary School we value the important role that parents play as co-educators. Parents are welcome to discuss any matters regarding homework with their child's class teacher on a formal or informal basis.

As the primary educators of their children, parents are encouraged to support and reinforce the shared expectations by as many means as possible. Learning is a shared responsibility between children, parents, teachers and teaching assistants. Children are encouraged and challenged in their learning as they aim for excellence. In order to achieve this goal, we at Hill West Primary, work with parents and guardians as a partnership, expanding the curriculum, extending the curriculum into the home and building on experiences shared outside the school.

HOW AND WHEN IS HOMEWORK GIVEN OUT?

All children at Hill West are given homework regularly on a;

- Monday,
- Wednesday
- Friday.

On occasions children may also receive homework on one of the days unspecified e.g. if they have not completed an activity in school within the given time frame or if the teacher feels that reinforcement of a particular skill is necessary. All homework tasks will be included in the child's homework book.

HOMEWORK/READING DIARIES

To help both the parent and the child to focus on the homework, our pupils are given a homework book with the homework noted inside. The homework book can be used by both parent and teacher to pass on any comments about the homework. Any comments regarding the homework, for example, if the child encountered difficulties, should be written either directly on the homework sheet/s or in the homework book. The children will also receive a reading diary in which parents are invited to:

1. record the books read by/ to their child; and
2. tick off the completed Reading Eggs/Eggspres lessons.

The reading diary will follow children through the school until it is completed.

READING

At Hill West children are encouraged to read every night for a minimum of 15 minutes. (This is in addition to their allocated homework). With the very youngest children this may simply be a time when parents share a story with their child. With more competent readers it may take the form of sharing a book together or the child reading independently. Parents should keep a record of the books read in the child's reading diary.

SPELLING

The children at Hill West will be given half termly spellings to learn each half term. These spellings are taken from the spelling list from the National Curriculum.

WHERE SHOULD THE CHILDREN DO THEIR HOMEWORK?

Children will have their own personal preferences about where they like to complete their homework, but in general the following conditions are suggested:

1. In a warm, well lit area of the house.
2. On a flat surface, preferably a table/desk for all written activities.
3. For reading a comfortable chair.
4. Away from distractions like TV, pets or other family members who are not involved in the homework.

Homework should be completed in pencil or in an appropriate Berol pen (not in biro or felt tip). Homework should always be presented neatly.

TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOMEWORK

The following is a guide for the time that we feel should be spent on homework per week:

- **Reception - 30 minutes a week**
- **Years 1 and 2 - 45 to 60 minutes a week**
- **Years 3 and 4 - 60 – 90 minutes a week**
- **Years 5 and 6 - approximately 2 hrs a week**

This allocation does not include the time children should spend reading each evening. In exceptional circumstances, if you require additional homework to support your child's learning at home then please discuss this with your child's class teacher who will be happy to oblige. We would kindly ask however that any additional homework requested is supported and corrected by the parent or carer.

CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

- On a Monday log on to Reading Eggs/Eggspress and complete a Reading Eggs Lesson. Please tick this Reading Eggs/Eggspress lesson in their reading diary after completion.
- On a Friday check the homework set in the child's homework book and the completion date.

- On a Wednesday log on to Times Tables Rockstars to monitor your child's progress.
- Supervise the homework, 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!
- If your child fails to hand in her/his homework on two separate occasions within the same month without a genuine excuse, we will enlist your support in ensuring that the homework is completed in future.

Suggestions on how parents can help their children at home will be discussed during parent consultation meetings and ideas will be included in newsletters sent home.

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 sample homework books throughout the year.