

NORTON PRIMARY ACADEMY



Homework Policy

Autumn 2015

This policy is based upon Government guidelines and recommendations relating to the time allocations of homework in primary schools.

Aims

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 Nursery to Year 6, we will reinforce, support and enhance learning at school.

Objectives

- To provide an enjoyable supplement to class work;
- To provide the opportunity for the child to practice what has been learnt in class, including the basic skills e.g times tables, spellings, independent research skills etc;
- To provide a practical opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child;
- To provide a practical opportunity for the child to begin to take responsibility for organising his/her own workload.

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 and reinforcement of class work, research and project work or further practice of skills used in class.

Learning is a shared responsibility between children, parents and staff. Children are encouraged and challenged in their learning, as they aim for excellence. In order to achieve this goal we must work together as a partnership, expanding the curriculum, extending it to the home and building on experiences shared outside school.

Year group	Recommended time allocation
Y1&2	1 hour per week
Y3&4	1.5 hours per week
Y5&6	30 minutes per day

Source: DfEE publication "Homework: Guidelines for Primary and Secondary schools" pub Nov 1998

Children will be given homework in line with the recommended guidelines. Nursery and Reception children will be given short homework activities based on current learning and themes on a regular basis.

We recognise that children have a wide range of activities after school including our own after-school clubs. We hope that children will endeavour to develop interests in the extended curriculum whilst ensuring that homework is

given adequate care and attention. Homework is an important part of the school day.

For homework to be of value it is important that work is handed in on time.

Some homework will be marked by the class as part of the learning process whilst teachers will also regularly mark homework. Should a child fail to complete a class task, this may be sent home **as part** of the homework, in order that the child's work does not fall behind.

As with all other matters relating to children, teachers are available to discuss homework with parents.

Staff are expected to work towards this aim by:

- Providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate learning in class;
- Ensuring the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually according to their ability;
- Communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied and developed and individual targets which have been negotiated.

Pupils are expected to work towards this aim by:

- Making full use of all the opportunities they are presented with;
- Tackling homework tasks promptly and with a positive attitude;
- Taking pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.

Parents are expected to work towards the aims by:

- Providing suitable quiet surroundings i.e. not in front of the television;
- Encouraging other family members to play quieter games if in the same room;
- Encouraging children to persevere with a task even if it seems daunting at first and giving support if necessary;
- Giving due importance to non-written tasks such as hearing reading and assisting in the regular learning of times tables and spellings;
- Keeping the staff informed of any changes in the child's circumstances which may affect learning.

Parents will be advised of the homework expectations by the class teacher at the beginning of the year and termly. They will also be given details of how they may be able to assist their child at home. Parents are invited to write comments in the reading diary about the child's enjoyment of, or interest in reading books.