

Homework Policy

Last reviewed: February 2022
Date for next review: February 2025



NO OUTSIDERS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

'Aspire to be Amazing'

Ashton Hayes Primary School

Church Road, Ashton Hayes, Chester, Cheshire CH3 8AB



Cheshire West
and Chester



Erasmus+



Cheshire West
and Chester

Supporting Social Communication

Ashton Hayes Primary School Homework Policy

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one to one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse and consolidate key skills such as times tables, mental mathematics, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Homework at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Ashton Hayes is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Advice and ideas can be found on individual class pages on the school website.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Our routines and expectations

All classes give out homework at different times depending on the age and stage of the children. The work will usually be explained and discussed in class before coming home; for example, it may be a continuation of classwork, or a Maths game already familiar to your child.

The tasks set will not always need to be handed in; there are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

Expectations:

Listed below are example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

All pupils are expected to read at home in addition to their set homework activities.

Within Foundation Stage we ask for support in reinforcing learning at home. Children are expected to develop good reading habits. This can be through sharing stories, practicing phonics and word recognition and reading scheme books. We may occasionally ask for more support with other areas of learning, for example collecting resources, practicing skills or specific tasks. In addition, the school website has ideas and resources to support parents with more activities for use at home should they wish.

During Year One and Two children will still be expected to read every day, with reading diaries updated by parents and teachers. There will be extension activities focusing on basic English and Maths skills, with some project work being sent home to develop independent research skills where appropriate.

Throughout Key Stage 2 the intensity and frequency of homework will increase. They will be expected to continue to read at home, learn table facts and complete supplementary literacy and numeracy activities as well as their weekly homework. There will be tasks linked to interventions that a pupil may be taking part in and independent research activities.

Role of the class teacher

Each teacher will develop a routine of homework that complements the curriculum and timetable being followed in their class. They will ensure that this routine is communicated to parents and pupils at the start of the year. Any changes to routines will be made clear to parents and pupils at the earliest opportunity.

Tasks set by the teacher will be communicated in an appropriate manner either through a note in reading journals, a homework diary and/or through the class website pages. Homework will be marked regularly and information about the pupil's understanding will be acted upon as necessary.

Role of Parents / Carers

In order for homework to be a positive experience for both parent and child then it needs to be seen as partnership with school. Make time and space to support your child in attempting their homework. Encourage and praise your child as they complete each task or part of the task.

At Ashton Hayes we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. There are times when we will want to see what children can do by themselves. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher. Any concerns about homework should be addressed with the class teacher in the first instance.

Inclusion

We aim to provide for all children regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background so homework is differentiated, where applicable, allow each pupil to achieve.

Conclusion

This policy will be reviewed every three years or in the light of changes to legal requirements.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen.

Increasingly teachers are using the web for homework. This may be directing children and parents to play a specific game on a website or complete a MyMaths task.

It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial.

If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher.

If your child is absent from school for illness, but is well enough to learn, we direct you to the class pages of the school website and to the reading books that they bring home.

What to do if you have concerns

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest or if it becomes a cause of conflict, please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

Chair of Governors:



Mrs A Lowry

Headteacher:



Mr J Gilbert